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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
What's your level of confidence in CHC's ability to meet your healthcare needs?

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to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 24, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



MAHARLIKA

The Filipino-American activist who returned from the United States to back her claim of having been abducted and tortured by state agents named her tormentors at a public hearing conducted Thursday by the Commission on Human Rights.

AS RUMORS OF THIRD SWINE FLU CASE SWIRL DPH asks public to remain calm

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The acting director for Public Health and Hospital Preparedness wants the public to remain calm amidst rumors of another confirmed case of H1N1 in the CNMI.

Warren Villagomez, who is a Bio-Terrorism planner of the Department of Public Health, said that the only confirmed cases they know of are that

of a 16-year-old local boy and a 26-year-old tourist who has since flown back to Japan.

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RELATED NEWS

DPH to immediately act on treatment concerns
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Fitial vetoes bill that allocates \$295K to Election Commission and Aetna

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vetoed a bill that proposes to appropriate a total of \$295,000 to the Commonwealth Election Commission and government health insurance claims.

In a letter sent on Thursday to Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Fitial said he is aware of

See FITAL on Page 4



TOTAL ECLIPSE

This combo photograph shows the different stages of the total solar eclipse as seen from two locations on the outskirts of Gauhati, India, Wednesday, July 22, 2009. The first two photographs were shot from Sipajhar, 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Gauhati and the rest were shot from Baihata, 35 kilometers (22 miles) west of Gauhati. Millions of Asians turned their eyes skyward Wednesday as dawn suddenly turned to darkness across the continent in the longest total solar eclipse this century will see.

AP

Labor's pending cases at EEOC down to 122

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER



Kaipat

The Department of Labor has not only reduced its backlog of cases in local courts but has also trimmed its pending cases at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In her interim report to the Fitial administration, Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat said that from a significant number of cases

See LABOR'S on Page 4

Schools to compete for \$5B from stimulus law

By LIBBY QUAID
AP EDUCATION WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—States and school districts will soon be able to compete for more federal money to undertake school reforms sought by President Barack Obama.

Part of the economic stimulus law enacted earlier this year, the \$5 billion education fund

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AP

In this June 4, 2009 file photo, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, left, listens as Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle speaks at the Milwaukee Area Technical College, in Milwaukee.

Sen. Manglona pushes to get casino industry, CIP projects moving. **PAGE 2**
PUC seeks \$193K budget, wants custody of own funds. **PAGE 3**

Local

Sen. Manglona pushes to get casino industry, CIP projects moving

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona has been pushing to get the island's casino industry moving as he cited that a lot of residents from the island have moved to Guam and the U.S. mainland due to ailing economy.

In an interview, Manglona said their casino commission has been working hard in getting the rules and regulations done and has been looking for those interested to build a casino on Rota.

Manglona said, right now the casino commission is still in need of funding to work with

the consultants, attorneys, and some limited marketing.

He said the commission has not yet realized the appropriation of \$500,000 given through the generosity of the Saipan delegation local funding assistance.

"We are looking at borrowing some funding so they can fulfill their responsibility and other

plans in moving this industry forward," the senator said.

The lack of funding, he said, handicapped the commission's operation significantly.

"We are working to assist the casino commission," he stressed,

Manglona said with the bad economy, employment opportunities on Rota are very limited.

With respect to tourism industry, he said that, at one point last year they thought the island could pick it up with the entry of Korean tourists.

The senator said as the Korean won's exchange rate went down, it affected the island's excitement in getting Korean tourists.

He said the other aspect that he is trying to push is a need to get moving on the Capital

Improvement Projects so at least the construction industry will open up employment to local people.

Manglona said the Rota leadership also recently worked with the Marianas Visitors Authority to continue with the direct charter flights from Japan.

He said the swine flu problem, however, has significantly affected the Japanese tourists arrival.

BoG donates \$100K to CGC Foundation

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam is pleased to announce a \$100,000 contribution to the Guam Community College (GCC) Foundation toward the construction of the Anthony A. Leon Guerrero Allied Health Center now being built at the GCC campus in Mangilao.

The Anthony A. Leon Guer-

rero Allied Health Center will house nursing, medical and allied health studies for GCC, and completion is expected by fourth quarter 2009.

Present during the check presentation last July 2 were Jesus Leon Guerrero, Mari Flor Her-rero, Dr. Mary Okada (GCC President), Lou Leon Guerrero

(Bank of Guam President, CEO and Board Chair), and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero, John Cruz (GCC VP/Administrative Services), Carmen Santos (GCC VP/Business & Finances), Josephine Mariano, (Bank of Guam Senior Vice President and Treasurer, GCC Foundation Board), Dr. R. Ray Somera (GCC Aca-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam join staff of Guam Community College (GCC) Foundation during a check turnover ceremony last July 2.

demic Vice President), Lorraine Okada (Chair, GCC Foundation Board of Governors), Lolita Reyes (GCC Associate Dean), and William D. Leon Guerrero (Bank of Guam Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer and Board Vice Chair).

For more information on BoG and its civic activities, contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. (PR)

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SHOW OF STRENGTH

Covenant Party candidates, led by standard bearers Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, pose with supporters and family members after filing their candidacies Thursday at the Commonwealth Election Commission.

MONTH G. DEPOSA

PUC seeks \$193K budget, wants custody of own funds

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has submitted a proposed administrative budget in the amount of \$193,103 for Fiscal Year 2010.

In a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, PUC chairperson Viola Alepuyo also urged for amendments of the Commission's enabling legislation in order for it to "effectively discharge its regulatory duties."

Alepuyo said the amendments are needed for the following reasons:

- To remove the requirement that its operating revenues, which are paid by the regulated utilities, be subject to appropriation;

- To empower the commission to have custody and control of its own funds and to enter into contracts in its own name; and

- To explicitly empower it to regulate cable providers in accordance with the federal fran-

chising process.

Alepuyo said their requests for \$193,103 budget and the amendments "are both reasonable and necessary" to empower the Commission to effectively discharge its duty to ensure that utility ratepayers receive quality service at just and reasonable rates.

Alepuyo explained that administrative expenses include rent, utilities, administrative and professional services, supplies, equipment, utilities, website, etc., which will be funded by an annual assessment on the regulated utilities.

She said their budget request is very low as compared to Guam and the Virgin Islands even though the three have comparable regulatory jurisdictions.

Guam Public Utilities Commission's reported current annual administrative budget is \$260,000, while the Virgin Islands Public Service Corp. is \$1.4 million.

According to the Commonwealth PUC's operating expenditure worksheet under the

FY2010 budget proposal, the bulk of the budget will be paid to personnel costs, professional services, and office expenses in the amount of \$55,553; \$61,200; and \$36,000 respectively.

Alepuyo said the Commonwealth PUC did not establish an administrative budget in FY 2009 because it determined that it did not yet need an office or an administrative assistant in order to organize and commence its regulatory activities.

"However, it has now become clear to the commission that with its increased regulatory duties it has the immediate need for an equipped and staffed office," Alepuyo said.

The FY2010 administrative budget, the chairperson said, does contain a one-time category of \$60,000 to clear professional expenses, which were incurred in FY 2009.

With respect to the requested amendments, Alepuyo said the appropriation process is generally used to allocate and control the expenditure of a govern-

ment's general revenue funds.

In contrast, she said, the commission does not either receive or use any general revenue funds.

"It is incongruous that while the commission is empowered to independently establish the utility rates, which are the

source of its operational funds, it cannot charge the utilities for reimbursement for its operational expenses, without the funds first being appropriated under [the statute]," Alepuyo said.

On custody of funds, the chairperson said the commission has serious concerns that the government, which is operating at a substantial deficit, should have

custody and control of restricted revenues, which are earmarked for the commission's sole use.

"The government's custody of commission funds is also a troubling contradiction to the concept that the commission should be free of potential pressure and influence from the government utility it regulates," she added.

REWARD OFFERED \$500.00

Apartment D-4 at Millers Estates in Capitol Hill was robbed at about 6-00 A.M. on July 19, 2009. Items taken:

- Toshiba Satellite Laptop Computer
- Citizen Eco-Drive Watch w/ Titanium Band
- Black Leather wallet w/ credit cards, Colorado Drivers License
- Black Workbag containing check books
- Green Workbag w/ initials BMM

NO QUESTIONS ASKED - 483-4401

REWARD OFFERED \$300.00

Lost laptop near the airport or Koblerville area
Dell brand with black case

NO QUESTIONS ASKED: JEFF 285-5338

Number of parolees in CNMI dropped

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of individuals on parole in the CNMI dropped between 2007 and 2008, according to the latest statistics from the Board of Parole.

Data showed that there were a total of 258 parolees (including 25 women) in the past four years. These include 66 in 2005, 64 in 2006, 70 in 2007 and 58 in 2008.

From the period 2005-2008, the Board of Parole conducted 93 parole hearings with 49 granted, 35 denied and the rest pending.

The board performed a total of 11,082 hours in community work service program.

The most common crimes

committed by offenders include assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, attempted aggravated assault and battery, disturbing peace, and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Other offenses include accessory after the fact, to first degree murder, first degree murder, second degree murder, burglary and theft, bad checks, child abuse, criminal mischief, and felony escape.

Some of the grave crimes committed are forgery, illegal employment of aliens, involuntary manslaughter, and kidnapping.

The 9th Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week is concluding today. This year's theme is "A Force for Positive Change."

According to 2008 statistics

on incarceration vs. community supervision in the U.S., a total of 33 surveyed states had an average of about \$79 per inmate per day.

This is almost \$29,000 per year per person for inmates.

In contrast, the average daily costs for managing an offender in the community in these surveyed states ranged from \$3.42 per day for probationers to \$7.47 per day for parolees or about \$1,250 to \$2,750 a year, respectively.

Data also showed that the total estimated adult correctional population in the U.S. is 7,328,200 in 2007.

The number of persons on probation is 4,293,163 and on parole is 824,365. the total number of persons jailed is 2,293,157.

Palms Resort Summer Bash returns today

Palms Resort Saipan will bring back its very popular Summer Bash campaign starting today.

Exciting games and other fun activities will start at 9pm until 6pm at the hotel's Isa Bar Poolside, a place where the whole family can enjoy a variety of food and beverages with reasonable prices.

Hotel staff will prepare a lot of games and wonderful prizes both at the swimming pool and the beach.

Last year's first Summer Bash drew a considerable number of parents and children from all age groups for an afternoon of fun and games.

The activities included a fashion show for children, a water gun shooting contest, and other games.

Palms Resort promises more of these activities in today's event, including a dancing contest.

They will also get a chance to try ocean kayaking, sea cycling, riding on a pedal boat, and other water activities.

Last year's other attractions were the watermelon hitting contest and the water balloon tossing contest.

Like last year's Summer Bash, entrance for this year's event is free. (Nazario Rodriguez)

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HAWAII	4¢	125	250	530
JAPAN [LANDLINE]	6¢	83	166	333
SOUTH KOREA [LANDLINE]	5¢	100	200	400
CHINA	4¢	125	250	500
HONG KONG	4¢	125	250	500
TAIWAN	6¢	83	166	333
PHILIPPINES [LANDLINE]	18¢	28	56	111
PHILIPPINES [MOBILE]	20¢	25	50	100

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DPH to immediately act on treatment concerns

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has vowed to immediately respond to public's concerns regarding the treatment of patients at the Commonwealth Health Center particularly at the emergency section.

"The department is taking an ac-

tive role to address internal communication issues and timely responses or delegate appropriate personnel to respond to the general public's concerns," acting Health Secretary John M. Tagabuel informed Rep. Ralph Torres, chairman of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

In his report providing updates

on some issues discussed during a House's hearing last July 17, Tagabuel suggested to have a dialogue "as a medium to the public, media and policy makers to allay public hearsay, innuendos and the department's concerns questioned by the public."

Torres stated in that hearing that he has to call for the meeting because they received a lot of complaints

from concerned residents regarding alleged bad treatment they received from CHC staff particularly at the emergency section.

Torres said patients have been allegedly asked to wait for two hours or more.

Public Health officials admitted that many doctors particularly Canadian, have been leaving the CHC the past three years.

Health officials also disclosed that CHC has no full-time nephrologist or a

kidney doctor since April 2009.

On the departure of doctors issue, Tagabuel informed Torres that Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos met with key public health staff to facilitate and expedite the recruitment of doctors.

With respect to dialysis issue, Tagabuel said the New Dialysis Center is tentatively scheduled to be operational by Aug. 15, 2009.

"The testing of the water system is on-going and certification proceeds after the testing phase," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KKA eyes clean-up volunteers

The Kagman Komunitat Association is inviting the residents of Kagman to join the Office of Rep. Rosemond B. Santos and the Taga Riders Motorcycle Association to volunteer in the restoration of the Kagman II pavilions on Sat-

urday, July 25, at 8am.

The pavilions of Kagman II will be painted and restored. Come and volunteer! (PR)

Attention all MHS Class of 1979

The second official 1979 Marianas

High School class reunion meeting will be held on July 31 at Irene Takai Camacho's Dandan house at 6pm.

Confirmation of the 30th year class reunion will be discussed and decided. Dips and chips and BYOB. Please call Camacho at 288-2596 or Joe Kaipat at 664-8509 between 8am to 3pm for de-

tails. (PR)

Navy to conduct live-fire exercises on FDM

SANTA RITA, GUAM—The U.S. Navy will conduct live-fire exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 8am to 12:59am on July 27-30.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a ten nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and date indicated.

The Farallon de Medinilla Target

Range is the Pacific Fleet's only U.S.-controlled range available for live-fire training for forward deployed naval forces. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense, because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2115. (PR)

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

is Obama's big shot at overhauling schools over the next couple of years.

Obama and his education secretary, Arne Duncan, planned to lay out how states can win the money Friday at the Education Department when they officially announce the "Race to the Top" competition.

The president will use the money to prod states to toughen academic standards and find better ways to recruit and keep effective teachers. To get the money, states will also need to be able to track student performance, and they will need a plan of action to turn around failing schools.

Schools that resist making the kinds of reforms the White House envisions risk losing out on the grants.

"What we're saying here is, if you can't decide to change these practices, we're not going to use precious dollars that we want to see creating better results; we're not going to send those dollars there," Obama said in an interview published Friday in The Washington Post.

Duncan told The Associated Press on Thursday, "I am unbelievably hopeful about the level of change we can drive and the amount of reform we're

going to see."

A state will have to meet a series of conditions to earn points and boost its chances. Some of those conditions are controversial, especially among teachers' unions, which make up an influential segment of Obama's Democratic base.

For example, the administration says it will not award money to states that bar student performance data from being linked to teacher evaluations. Several states, including California, New York and Wisconsin, have such a prohibition.

But there are also elements the unions will embrace; states can earn points by submitting letters of support from state union leaders.

The Obama administration is using the stimulus not only to help schools ride out the recession but to try to transform the federal government's role in education. Not every state will get the money—Duncan envisions the dollars going to perhaps 10 to 20 states that can serve as models for innovation.

The \$5 billion fund might not seem like much, considering the stimulus bill provided \$100 billion for schools. But the fund is massive compared with the \$16 million in discretionary money Duncan's predecessors got each year for their own priorities.

"This is a historic, unprecedented

opportunity," he said.

Moreover, the fund has taken on added importance because in many states, the bulk of the stimulus money is being used to fill increasingly larger budget holes, and not for the innovations Obama wants.

A report from the Government Accountability Office earlier this month said school districts are planning to use the money mostly to prevent teacher layoffs.

"Most did not indicate they would use these funds to pursue educational reform," the report said. The GAO is the investigative arm of Congress.

Already, the promise of an extra \$5 billion has helped Duncan prod state legislatures to do the administration's bidding.

For example, he warned Tennessee lawmakers they could lose out on the money if they kept blocking a bill to let more kids into charter schools; within weeks, the bill was enacted and signed into law.

"It's amazing the amount of progress, literally, without us spending a dime," Duncan said.

The Education Department will gather public comment on its rules for the \$5 billion fund for the next 30 days; applications will be available in October, and the first round of money should be awarded early next year.

FITIAL

From Page 1

the urgency of these appropriations to protect the health insurance program of government employees and to ensure that the Commonwealth Election Commission has adequate funding to prepare for this year's general election.

However, Fitial said, the funding from the Marianas Public Land Trust is simply not available.

"And even more importantly, the constitutional obstacle of this bill leaves me no choice but to disapprove it in its current form," the governor said.

Introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul, House Bill 16-262 appropriates \$172,369 to the Commonwealth Election Commission for the November 2009 general election and runoff election if necessary.

The bill also appropriates \$122,630 to Aetna Global Benefits, an insurance carrier that administers the CNMI government's health insurance program. The payment is for the runoff obligations incurred by members of the

CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Program.

By a 12-3 vote, the House of Representatives passed the legislation last July. The three who opposed the bill were Reps. Christina Sablan, Ed Salas, and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

The following day, the Senate unanimously passed the bill.

In disapproving the bill, Fitial explained that he understands that a letter was forwarded to the Legislature from MPLT, reporting an excess income of \$295,000 for transfer to the CNMI general fund.

Fitial said that, in submitting that report, there was a clear misinterpretation of Public Law 16-7 Section 3.

P.L. 16-7 Section 3 earmarked \$3.4 million from future revenues of MPLT for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010.

The governor said no part of the law mandates an even split between the two Fiscal Years of the \$3.4 million, i.e. \$1.7 million for FY 2009 and \$1.7M for FY 2010.

"As such, the net distributable income of \$1,995,000 in FY 2009 is transferred in its entirety, leaving a

transfer in FY 2010 in the amount of \$1,405,000.

Fitial stressed that even if such funding were available, a provision in the Constitution clearly states that the Legislature may not increase the anticipated revenues of the government without the governor's consent.

"In passing this legislation, the Legislature acted contrarily to this provision of the NMI Constitution and increased the revenues of the government, which makes this legislation unenforceable," he said.

During the House session when the bill was introduced and passed, Rep. Sablan asked if they could first verify the figures provided and check whether the administration had not paid Aetna.

Sablan also questioned the \$172,000 appropriation to the Election Commission. She pointed out that recent amendments to the CNMI election laws would most likely result in additional costs, but it wasn't clear yet how much exactly.

Sablan said there was very little time to determine whether or not the \$172,000 appropriation was sufficient or perhaps excessive.

LABOR'S

From Page 1

at EEOC, her department has now whittled it down to only 122.

"Our counsel has corresponding with EEOC urging them to close these cases, and we are now down to 122 cases pending there," Kaipat stated.

Furthermore, she announced that Labor currently has no cases pending before U.S. Labor or the National Labor Relations Board.

Kaipat said they have begun to press to eliminate the backlog of old cases in Superior Court and in the federal agencies, which mostly covers federal wage and hour law claims.

These pending cases have in the past allowed quite a large number of unemployed foreign workers to remain in the commonwealth.

Kaipat said there are currently 51 labor cases of various kinds in the Superior Court.

"Once a case is filed, if the principal objective of the worker is to remain in the Commonwealth, there is little incentive for counsel to move the case along..." she said, adding that the department's new legal coun-

sel is moving to dismiss appropriate cases for failure to prosecute.

"I expect that within a few months, we will be able to cut down the number of pending cases substantially. We are also instituting methods to push these cases along more quickly on our part," Kaipat said, adding that in the past there were more than a hundred cases pending with EEOC.

The deputy secretary also reported that budgetary constraints led the department to scrap the automated processing system two years ago and adopt the more efficient online system that it currently uses.

"The prior LIIDS system was a somewhat complicated system that did not work well for the updated processes envisioned by the Public Law 15-108, or the new labor law. Our new automated system is efficient and cost-effective, but it does not guarantee a wide range of data," she said.

Kaipat said the department has no funding that it cannot provide a wider range of data.

"The need for data simply cannot compete with the need for police services, education services, and health services in our very limited budget," she said.

DPH

From Page 1

The Emergency Operations Center said they have not received any new case of swine flu, while Public Health Medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom could not be reached for comment.

Villagomez said they will send next week another batch of regular test flu results from the different satellite clinics. These results will end up in a laboratory testing facility in San Antonio, Texas.

Last week they sent the last batch of test results that included the two confirmed cases.

Since January, the DPH-EOC has sent about 80 regular test flu results. They are sending 20 test results in

each batch.

Villagomez said they are expecting to again reach the 20-result threshold by Monday and the batch would be ready for transportation on Tuesday.

Villagomez said that EOC is regularly monitoring the progress of the local boy infected by the H1N1 virus—either by telephone or physical visit.

DPH earlier said that both patients have already checked out and have fully recovered.

"We continue to conduct regular test flu exams to ensure the public safety.

DPH said earlier that there is no identified epidemiological link for the local case.

However, DPH said that more cases of H1N1 are likely in the CNMI and those infected have treated them like the common flu.

Inos returns from leadership summit

CNMI student Anamaria Inos, a 12th grader at Saipan Southern High School, recently returned from University of California Los Angeles, where she attended a People to People Leadership Summit.

Inos, along with fellow delegates from around the country, participated in a ropes course, Venice Beach clean-up, and en-

joyed a day in Disneyland, the happiest place on earth.

During the weeklong program in UCLA, Inos learned about effective leadership and how to develop her own leadership abilities to make a difference at home. Hands-on activities such as creating an Action Plan Workshop for the CNMI, professional speakers,



Inos

workshops, and visits to significant local venues. All gave Inos a new perspective on what it takes to lead.

"This program helped me

to become a better person both mentally and physically. It opened my mind into a whole new perspective in life. I learned that being eager, yourself, and fully present is what will get you to where you want to be," said Inos.

People to People Leadership Summit are designed to allow

students a chance to explore the various aspects of leadership in specific contexts, and they are help in prestigious venues around the country.

Programs focused on the role of young women as leaders, politics, or community service help young people to discover their own potential. The programs offer students

a unique blend of specialized educational, leadership, and cultural exposure as well as an itinerary filled with the highlights of the hosting community. Participants in these programs often experience life-changing attitudes toward individual and shared responsibilities, global leadership, appreciation of cultural diversity, and enhanced personal growth and self-confidence. Contact: People to People Program Office, 888.275.5061 or info@peopletopeople.com. (PR)

Tree planting campaign to reduce sediment entering Laolao Bay

In an effort to help protect Laolao Bay Watershed and reduce the sediment entering Laolao Bay, several community groups are inviting the public to help plant trees around the area at a one-day event.

The Laolao Bay Tree Planting Day will take place on Aug. 16 from 8am to 12pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 7:45 a.m.

For more information about participating, contact Sharisse Rivera at 664-8500 or email, rockistashaw@gmail.com.

The Laolao Revegetation Project aims to protect the Laolao Bay Watershed to reduce the amount of sediment accumulating on the adjacent coral reefs. A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point, in this case Laolao Bay. Development and illegal clearing and burning in our watersheds increases storm flow which leads to erosion of soils which can damage our corals. The increase of water flow can also lead to the in-

Chamorro, Carolinian dance groups sought for Guam Micronesian Island Fair this Oct.

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, is calling on all traditional Chamorro and Carolinian dance groups to audition for the upcoming 22nd Guam Micronesian Island Fair.

The auditions will be held every Thursday of August at the Garapan Street Market.

The purpose of this audition is to select the group that will showcase the pride and culture of the CNMI people, most especially the Chamorros and Carolinians. The groups that are selected to represent the CNMI will be participating in the 22nd Guam Micronesian Island Fair on Oct. 16-18 at the Ypao Beach Park on Guam.

All interested traditional Chamorro and Carolinian Dance groups are encouraged to register at the Arts Councils office located in Capital Hill next to the Post Office from July 27 to Aug. 3 from 7:30am to 5pm.

For more information, contact Lucille T. Ayuyu or George S. Fitial at (670) 322-9982/82 or 664-2576. (PR)

creased water contaminants that can be toxic to living things.

Seven acres of tree saplings were planted at the site in 2006. Over 800 saplings and 250 cuttings consisting of six native species were planted nearly 5000 native seeds were broadcast, including three garbage bags full of softball sizes Barringtonia asiatica seeds, all of which sprouted. Six species of tree saplings were planted that year; it includes the Sosugi (Acacia Confusa), Kamachili (Pithecolobium dulce), Banalo (Thespesia populnea), Gaogao flores (Erythrina sp.), Daok (Calophyllum inophyllum), and Pago (Hibiscus).

According to Angelo Vilagomez of Beautify CNMI, the survival of the trees that were planted three years ago will indicate the kind of trees suitable for the area. The event sponsors will determine what kinds of trees will be planted this year in partnership with The Department of Lands and Natural Resources Forester, Vic Guerrero.

The event is sponsored by the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, Beautify CNMI, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Coral Reef Initiative. (PR)

Cenzon named Carlsmith Ball Guam's counsel

HONOLULU—Carlsmith Ball LLP is pleased to announce that Maria Teresa Cenzon has joined the firm as counsel for its Guam office.

Cenzon has more than 12 years of experience in commercial transactions, corporate governance and regulatory compliance, spanning across numerous areas of the law including, but not limited to, corporate, real estate, banking (including bankruptcy), insurance, mergers and acquisitions, administrative law, and commercial and tort litigation.

"We are pleased to welcome someone of Maria's talent to the firm," said Chair Karl Kobayashi. "Having practiced law in Guam for more than a decade, Maria possesses a keen understanding of how businesses operate there. She is a great addition to our firm and our clients will benefit from her knowledge and expertise."

Cenzon was most recently a partner with Cabot Mantanona LLP, where her practice focused primarily on commercial transactions, corporate compliance and regulatory matters. She also performed due diligence investigations and reports for a multinational corporation, negotiated and prepared agreements for the purchase of on-going businesses, represented corporations in obtaining continued tax benefits under Guam's Qualifying Certificate ("QC") program,

and represented the Governor's Office in a lawsuit involving the licensure of gaming devices.

Prior to joining Cabot Mantanona LLP, Cenzon spent nearly 11 years at Mair, Mair, Spade & Thompson as a partner. During that time, she served as Legal Counsel to the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority,

advising the client in areas including contracts, local and federal procurement laws and regulations, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, mandates of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), and assisting in formulating of policies regarding leases of Airport property, food and beverage concessions, retail concessions and other matters. Cenzon also



Cenzon

counseled numerous Guam and multi-national corporations with regard to regulatory compliance and corporate governance, served as corporate counsel to both foreign and Guam domestic banks and represented a bankruptcy trustee in one of the largest Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases on Guam.

"I am excited to join one of Guam's most respected law firms," said Cenzon. "I look forward to working with Carlsmith Ball's top notch attorneys in continuing to provide its impressive list of clients with high quality service."

Professionally, Cenzon serves as the president of the Guam Legal Services Corporation, and is a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and Soroptimist International of the Marianas. Cenzon is admitted to practice before the District Court of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands. She was recently inducted as the secretary of the Guam Bar Association's Board of Governors.

Cenzon received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Writing Intensive English from Marquette University at Milwaukee, Wis. In 1996, she earned her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she was on the Dean's List, cases editor of the *Loyola University Chicago School of Law Consumer Law Reporter* and a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity.

Carlsmith Ball LLP is a leading law firm in the Pacific region with close to 100 lawyers in seven offices in Saipan, Guam, Honolulu, Maui, Kona, Hilo and Los Angeles. For more than 150 years, Carlsmith Ball has assisted clients in achieving their objectives through effective, result-oriented representation in large commercial and financial transactions and in complex arbitration and litigation matters. For more information about the firm, please visit www.carlsmith.com. (PR)

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports

1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide.

1. Conditional Use Application #2009-0119 Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
2. Conditional Use Application #2009-2026 Star Marianas Inc.

E. Old Business. None

F. New Business

1. Adult Business District Location

G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 and 2010

RFP - 09-10 - MPLT - 01

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) and the Office of the Public Auditor are soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit of MPLT for the two fiscal years ending September 30, 2009 and 2010. Separate audits and reports are to be performed and issued for each year. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

STANDARDS:

The audit shall be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards (for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions issued by the Comptroller General of the United States).

REQUIRED REPORTS:

The audit report shall include the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report on the study and evaluation of internal control systems, which must identify the organization's significant internal accounting controls, and the auditor's report on compliance with laws, regulations, grants, and contracts.

Proposals must at least have the following information:

TITLE PAGE:

1. Requests for Proposal Subject
2. Name of CPA or CPA firm
3. Local address and telephone number
4. Name of contact person and submission date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER:

1. Briefly state your understanding of the audit to be performed. Include an affirmative statement that your firm can perform and complete the work within the time period specified.
2. State a comprehensive fee for which the work will be performed.
3. Briefly describe your work plan, and state the target dates for the entrance and exit conferences and for the delivery of the draft and final audit report package.

COMPANY'S PROFILE:

1. Provide a brief description of the proposer, firm-personnel, educational background and experience, number of staff and staff level (partner, manager, etc.), and client listing.
2. The proposer must make an affirmative statement or provide supporting document to state/show that: (1) at least the partners are CPAs, (2) it meets the independence requirement of the Standards For Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions, (3) it does not have a record of substandard audit work, (4) it meets all specific requirements imposed by CNMI laws and other regulations, and (5) its system of quality control for accounting and auditing practice is in conformity with standards established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
3. The proposal should identify Principals/Partners, Audit Managers, and other staff members who will work on the audit. Resumes including relevant experience and continuing education for in-charge auditors up to the partner with final responsibility for the engagement should be included.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating an understanding of the scope of the work to be performed and completing the work on time (percentage weight 25%).
2. Qualifications and experience of the firm (percentage weight 25%).
3. Qualifications and technical competence of the staff to be assigned. Education, position in the firm, and years and types of experience will be considered (percentage weight 25%).
4. Audit fee (percentage weight 25%).

Cost is not expected to be the controlling factor in the selection of a Contractor for this solicitation. The degree of importance of cost as a factor could become greater depending upon the equality of the proposals for the other factors (the listed criteria) evaluated; where competing proposals are determined to be substantially equal (within 3%), total cost would become the controlling factor. In that event, the best and final cost/price may be requested from the offers that are substantially equal. The right to award based upon the cost/price submitted with the offer, however, is reserved, if the cost/price is determined fair and reasonable for the services.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal shall be submitted to:

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
Morgen Building, 1st Floor
Suite #106
P.O. BOX 501089
SAIPAN, MP 96950

The deadline for submission of proposals is August 17, 2009. The contract for this audit will be awarded by August 24, 2009 and the audit work can commence on November 15, 2009 and 2010. The final audit reports shall be completed and delivered by January 31, 2010 and 2011.

Inquires may be directed to Redie Dela Cruz, Office Manager at telephone number (670) 235-4401, by fax (670) 235-4450, or by email at mpltp@pticom.com.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Drawing a line on guns

The nation dodged a bullet Wednesday. In a rare defeat for the powerful gun lobby, the Senate routed an amendment that would have federalized concealed-weapons laws by forcing all states that issue such permits to gun owners to honor those granted by other states. States with strict rules regarding concealed firearms, such as California, essentially would have had their laws nullified by states with lax rules. Yet so spineless have gun-control advocates in Congress been in recent years that there was no guarantee common sense would trump political cowardice. It was a nailbiter, but the amendment failed on a 58-39 vote.

The measure, introduced by Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., had inspired a significant degree of ideological distortion as conservatives fought hard, ironically, to trample states' rights.

Standards for concealed-weapons permits vary dramatically by state. Some deny them to people with drunken-driving convictions and substance-abuse problems, while others do not. Texas and Florida even issue permits to non-residents, including to people who fail the background checks and requirements in their home states. Needless to say, if the Thune amendment had passed, today would be Christmas in July for gang members, organized-crime syndicates and drug traffickers.

Any way you slice it, more concealed weapons mean more risk. Consider the price Texas has paid. In 2000, a Los Angeles Times investigation found that more than 400 people with prior criminal convictions, including rapists and armed robbers, had been issued concealed-weapons permits, and thousands of permit holders had been arrested for criminal behavior or found to be mentally unstable. Also, a Violence Policy Center study found that concealed-weapons license holders in Texas were arrested for weapons-related crimes at a rate 81 percent higher than the state's general population.

One of the gun lobby's favorite canards is that only law-abiding citizens obtain gun permits. But in several states, criminals are allowed to carry concealed firearms. Alaska, for example, permits adults to carry concealed weapons without a license, background check or training -- even if they have multiple misdemeanor convictions, including misdemeanor sex offenses against minors.

Let's hope Wednesday's victory stiffens the resolve of legislators who have feared to go toe-to-toe with the National Rifle Association. The gun lobby's fanatical disregard for public safety is not going to stop, and it will take courage to halt the agenda of those who watch as 276 Americans a day are injured or killed by a bullet but who think the answer is to arm everyone.

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MARGULIES
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An age-old question about mothers

On July 11, Maria del Camen Bousada de Lara, a Spanish woman who 2 1/2 years ago briefly became the "world's oldest mom" when she gave birth to twin boys at age 67, died of cancer. A recipient of donor eggs and sperm at a Los Angeles fertility clinic, she had told doctors she was 55, the maximum age for partnerless in-vitro fertilization patients at that clinic. It's unclear who will care for Bousada's children, although she was quoted as saying that friends and family members (some of whom had expressed dismay over her pregnancy) were available to step in.

Bousada's cancer was diagnosed shortly after her sons were born in December 2006.

Now that the practice of scolding women over their reproductive choices has become something of a sport, this story, sad as it is, seems headed for the finger-wagging hall of fame. Granted, Nadya Suleman, a.k.a. Octomom, remains the poster child of assisted reproductive technology run amok. But anyone inclined to grumble about women delaying their childbearing years beyond what is "natural" now need only point to Bousada.

Her story, after all, has all the elements: a single woman desperate enough not only to lie but to sell her house to foot the \$52,000 medical bill; a fertility clinic (in California, naturally) that believed her lie and took her money; and, finally, a tragic ending (and there have been some reports that Bousada's cancer was hastened by the fertility treatments) that has left two children parentless.

But Bousada is not the only senior citizen admitted to a maternity ward. Since 1994, there have been 12 documented cases of women over 60 having babies (including a 62-year-old California woman who already had 11 children). The reigning "world's oldest mom" is probably Omkari Panwar, an Indian woman who was believed to be 70 (her exact age was unknown) when she gave birth to boy-and-girl twins last summer. Never mind that she already had two grown daughters and five grandchildren. Her 77-year-old husband spent his life savings and sold his buffaloes to pay for in-vitro fertilization -- and donor eggs -- because they wanted a son.

"I can die a happy man and a proud father," he told reporters.

Frightened for the future of humanity? Me too.

Stories like these tend to have that effect. They can also give the impression that assisted reproductive technologies, particularly egg donation, belong to the realm of some surreal new world where septuagenarians registered at Baby Gap will represent just another "alternative lifestyle" that traditional folk will have to "tolerate."

But many statistics put the average age of an egg-donor recipient

By MEGHAN DAUM

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail her at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.

at 42 -- a long way from 66. And according to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, nearly 33,000 children have been born to women using donated eggs between 2004 and 2007. So why do we focus on the anomalous cases like Bousada's and Panwar's and decry the whole phenomenon -- which, on balance, seems to have improved many people's lives?

Rachel Lehmann-Haupt, author of "In Her Own Sweet Time," an account of the current state of reproductive technology and her own quest to outsmart her biological clock, thinks part of what's happening is that the mainstream segment of this movement is largely invisible.

"Women in their 40s often don't disclose that they're using donor eggs," Lehmann-Haupt said. "So you have a lot of older women -- a lot of celebrities, for instance -- who are asking us to believe they got pregnant on their own."

Not only does that result in people thinking it's possible, even easy, to get pregnant on your own well into middle age, it can unfairly turn "Guinness Book" moms into the face of fertility assistance.

Is the solution to impose strict age limits? That makes me uncomfortable for a range of "get your laws off my body" reasons. So I suppose my -- and I would guess most people's -- greatest wish is that human beings were better able to impose their own limits, age-wise and otherwise.

We don't know exactly what drove Bousada's decision. No doubt her reasons can't exactly be boiled down to a series of generalizations about the fear of growing old or the culture of entitlement or plain old shortsightedness (as easy as such armchair psychologizing seems). But I can't help but think -- make that hope -- that the publicity that surrounds those who run wild with reproductive technology is its own best cautionary tale.

Having a kid later in life is great if that's your thing. But, come on -- no one with a kid in Pampers should be in Depends.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sick of drug ads

By **CHRISTOPHER LANE**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's amazing what an hour of aimless channel surfing can turn up these days.

After some freewheeling with the remote one night recently, I managed to catch not only half a dozen low-budget make-over shows but also three ads for FDA-approved pharmaceuticals: one for depression, another for premenstrual dysphoric disorder and a third for inadequate eyelash syndrome—sorry, “eyelash hypotrichosis.” Prescription treatment for “longer, thicker and darker lashes”? Fellow Americans, have we lost our minds?

In the ad, actress Brooke Shields coyly advises women that any eyelid skin darkening that occurs—a potential side effect of the prescription liquid—“may be reversible” but “close doctor supervision” could still be necessary. Oh, and did I mention that the proposed treatment can take 16 weeks? Imagine the doctors' billable hours!

How does the pharmaceutical industry have the nerve to tap an already lucrative cosmetics market while keeping a straight face medically? And what exactly was Shields thinking as she read copy that, to my male ears at least, made the product sound downright scary: “There is potential for increased brown iris pigmentation, which is likely to be permanent ... for hair growth to occur in areas where (the) solution comes in repeated contact with skin surfaces. If you develop or experience any eye problems or have eye surgery, consult your doctor immediately.”

Shields has also made a “video diary”—you can find it online—

A coup with connections

Powerful special interests have flexed their muscles and confronted President Barack Obama on the most important legislative priorities of his domestic agenda. But this kind of politics-by-influence-peddling doesn't stop at the water's edge. And in foreign policy, the consequences can be more immediate, violent and deadly.

Meet Lanny Davis, Washington, D.C., lawyer and lobbyist, former legal counsel to President Bill Clinton and avid campaigner for Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential bid. He has been hired by a coalition of Latin American business interests to represent the dictatorship that ousted elected President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras in a military coup and removed him to Costa Rica on June 28.

Davis is working with Bennett Ratcliff, another lobbyist with a close relationship to Hillary Clinton who is a former senior executive for one of the most influential political and public relations firms in Washington. In the current mediation effort hosted by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the coup-installed government did not make a move without first consulting Ratcliff, an unnamed source told *The New York Times*.

Davis and Ratcliff have done an amazing public relations job so far. Americans, relying on media reports, are likely to believe that Zelaya was ousted because he tried to use a referendum to extend his term of office. This is false.

Zelaya's referendum, planned for the day the coup took place, was a nonbinding poll. It only asked voters if they wanted to have an actual referendum on reforming the country's Constitution on the November ballot. Even if Zelaya had gotten everything he was looking for, a new president would have been elected on the same

to “chronicle her lash journey.” It sounds like an epic voyage! “I thought I would be a good candidate” for the prescription treatment, she confides, “simply because over the years I've just been ripping off my false eyelashes while on Broadway.”

We do not go to American TV to seek signs of deep thought. The studios that gave us “Baywatch,” “Toddlers & Tiaras” and “Skating With Celebrities” can't be accused of setting our expectations too high. Still, at least we know what we're getting with such shows. Direct-to-consumer, or DTC, pharmaceutical advertising, legal only in the United States and New Zealand, is—or should be—another matter. After all, it concerns public health.

We should recall that we did just fine when these ads were limited to professional journals and health-care providers. That constraint reduced the risk of self-diagnosis—and spared us the barrage of vanity treatments that now beset us.

In 1997, however, the Food and Drug Administration—encouraged by the Clinton administration—relaxed its rules on this issue. The pharmaceutical industry was given a green light to bypass providers and market its wares directly to consumers.

To gauge the effect of that change, just follow the money. The year before the ruling, drug companies spent \$595 million on DTC advertising, according to the Food and Drug Law Journal. Within a year of the change, their spending rose to \$844 million. By 2000, it shot up to \$2.24 billion. And an August 2007 *New England Journal of Medicine* article put the total for all drug-related marketing in 2005 at \$29.9 billion, with \$4.1 billion spent annually on DTC advertising. That's more than \$11 million a day.

November ballot. So Zelaya would be out of office in January, no matter what steps were taken toward constitutional reform. Further, Zelaya has repeatedly said that if the Constitution were changed, he would not seek another term.

If we add together the high-powered lobbyists from the Clinton camp, Republican members of Congress and conservatives within the State Department, the coup government has plenty of support from Washington.

So it's up to Obama to do the right thing. He can have the U.S. Treasury freeze the coup leaders' personal bank accounts and the assets of the coup leaders and their supporters, and deny them visas to the U.S. He could also impose trade sanctions -- 70 of Honduran exports go to the U.S. He would have worldwide support for such steps: Both the Organization of American States and the U.N. General Assembly have voted unanimously to demand the immediate and unconditional reinstatement of Zelaya.

Almost all of the Latin American governments—which are mostly left of center—also sympathize with Zelaya because he is a reform president fighting against a corrupt oligarchy. In one of the poorest countries in the hemisphere, he raised the minimum wage by 60 percent and increased teachers' salaries and public pensions, as well as access to education.

What happened in Honduras is a classic Latin American coup in another sense: Gen. Romeo Vasquez, who led it, is an alumnus of the United States' School of the Americas (renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). The school is best known for producing Latin American officers who have committed major human rights abuses, including military coups.

Although “prescription drug spending remains a relatively small proportion (11 percent) of personal health-care spending, it is one of its fastest-growing components, increasing at double-digit rates” between 1993 and 2001, says a 2003 Kaiser Foundation study.

If Congress is serious about lowering health-care costs, including for vastly expensive (price-controlled) pharmaceuticals, it can start by reversing the 1997 FDA ruling and banning DTC advertising. That is because such costs are always passed on to providers, and then to patients, in the form of higher prices, co-payments and premiums. Even when insurance providers decline coverage for treatments such as “eyelash hypotrichosis,” as mine does, they—and eventually consumers—end up subsidizing the treatments because the drug makers inflate prices on regimens that are covered. Above all, there are so many more urgent needs in pharmaceutical research, including dealing with the H1N1 virus and the spiraling rates of HIV infection.

Health-care reform involves a lot more than the bottom line. It's also an opportunity to weigh priorities, push preventive care and re-establish our fundamental needs in public health. If the pharma ads on TV are any indication of our priorities, it's time for some serious discussion.

Meanwhile, to those desperate for thicker, longer lashes, may I suggest more mascara? Umpteen brands promise “volume express” and a “luscious, intense definition,” whose only side effect is a lightening of the purse.

Lane is the author, most recently, of “Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness.”

By **MARK WEISBROT**

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington. (www.cepr.net).

The military has shot at peaceful demonstrators, killing one, according to human rights groups, and the coup government has closed TV and radio stations and arrested journalists. Two political activists have been murdered.

During the 1980s, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency trained a military death squad—the infamous Battalion 316—that tortured and murdered hundreds of Honduran political activists. The U.S. Embassy looked the other way, and the State Department doctored its human rights reports to omit these crimes.

Obama has so far been silent about the coup government's violence and censorship. This silence is very unfortunate and difficult to explain. The repression may worsen if—as expected—the Arias mediation efforts fail and Zelaya makes good on his vow to return to Honduras.

Obama needs to show that the U.S. will not follow policies of the past by supporting Zelaya's return with action, not just words. Anything less will look like complicity in the eyes of the world, especially given the coup government's friends in high places.

The prism of race made a scholar appear to be just another suspect

I loved living in Cambridge, Mass., except when I didn't. And when I didn't was when I had left my apartment late at night to walk to the all-night corner grocery store with just that \$10 bill stuffed into my pocket, having left my wallet on the bookcase in the hallway. Then, strolling along, soon as I spotted a police car, I'd tighten: Dammit, I'm gonna get stopped. Maybe some black guy broke into a home two blocks over. Maybe he was over 6 feet and slim like myself. Maybe there was no black guy two blocks over. I could, in that flash, without any ID, picture myself sitting in the police car, handcuffed. And then when the car would pass, when I'd finally exhale, I dared not look back over my shoulder, lest the officer think I was checking him out checking me out through his rearview mirror, which would have been a telltale sign of some kind of wrongdoing in motion.

The little mind games that black men in Cambridge — and other places — sometimes play when it comes to the police.

I lived in Cambridge a little more than 15 years, working as a reporter. Lived within walking distance of Harvard University, where the scholar Henry Louis “Skip” Gates Jr. has long taught. You'd see him coming out of the Harvard Coop, or standing at the famous newsstand in the square, or just walking down the street, bopping along. A lot of “hi's” shouted out at him. If you're privy to the intellectual discourse of the nation, of course you knew of his fame.

Physically, he's on the short side and walks with a limp. He doesn't, in the least, appear threatening.

So, I loved living in Cambridge, except when I didn't, which was when I'd just landed at Logan Airport in the middle of the night from a foreign reporting assignment and had to hop a taxi home. I'd insist the taxi driver wait until I was safely inside. I lived alone and wanted to make sure the place was empty. As well, I didn't want anyone walking by thinking I was trying to break into my own apartment.

So here's Gates the other day, just back from China, in his house (a tony neighborhood that I wouldn't have been caught fooling around in after, say, midnight, and by fooling around I mean walking home, because then, as a black man, you want to cross the street before the group of white females does, which you find insulting) after struggling with the jammed front door, and he suddenly notices police officers out front. Someone has called the police on him: a black man in a pricey neighborhood seen trying to get into somebody's home. The squad car rolls right up. (That's real estate reality for you: The police car might not have gotten to one of the streets over in mostly black Roxbury so quickly.) Gates wonders why the police are there; they explain why, a call about a possible break-in.

And then it probably starts to whoosh in Gates's own mind, like a desert wind that must peak before leveling off. Here we go again. Heat-

By **WIL HAYGOOD**

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Haygood is a Washington Post reporter.








ed words because Gates, in these flashing moments, is not a scholar who studied at the University of Cambridge (in England) but a suspect. Forget the Harvard and personal ID's, he's in that touchy nexus and zone of black skin and law enforcement. And that peculiar zone can be exposed day or night. And when it beams on, it can show that the black man is carrying a lot of historical weight — weight that Gates himself has put into scholarship and documentaries — surrounding the heaviness of race in America. It's suddenly pent-up anger and jet-lag words flying on that wind that can't be taken back and skin color and real estate and cold eyes and I'm not breaking any law so just leave me alone please, dammit, please. Please.

But the wheels are already rolling, off to the police station.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. North winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. North winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲87 ▼79

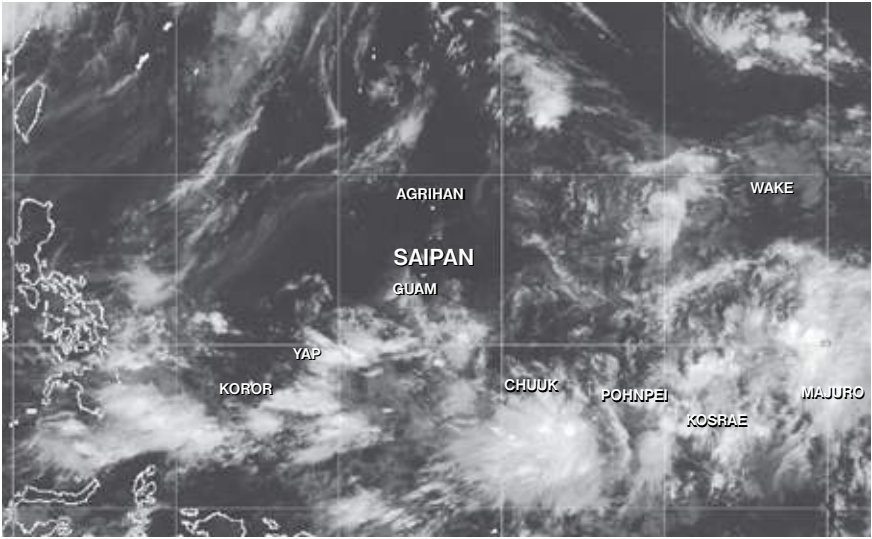
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲53 ▼40
Beijing	Sunny	▲93 ▼70
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
London	Cloudy	▲73 ▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲86 ▼66
Manila	Showers	▲84 ▼78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲58 ▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92 ▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
Osaka	Rain	▲83 ▼70
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼59
Pusan	Cloudy	▲79 ▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲93 ▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲88 ▼57
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72 ▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲82 ▼70
Tokyo	Showers	▲83 ▼75
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲90 ▼74

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:08 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:17 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:49 PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a circulation centered west of the Marianas near 14N136E through weak circulations centered just east of Chuuk at 8N155E and near Kosrae to end at EQ167E. Convergent west winds south of the trough are generating scattered showers within 120 miles of a line from 10N140E to 4N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulations east of Chuuk and near Kosrae are found within 150 miles from a line from 7N148E to 2N159E. A surface trough stretches southwestward over the Marshall Islands from 12N175E to EQ167E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located west of the trough axis within 210 miles of a line from 12N168E to EQ161E. This area includes Kwajalein. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are occurring east of the trough axis or northeast of Majuro within 120 miles of line from 11N173E to 7N174E. Scattered showers are found farther south over Tarawa within 50 miles of a line from 5N174E to 1N172E. A surface trough extends southward from 23N156E to 17N156E. Winds converging near the trough are generating scattered showers southwest of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 21N162E to 16N156E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:50 AM	9:18 PM
Sunday	9:46 AM	9:59 PM
Monday	10:41 AM	10:40 PM
Tuesday	11:35 AM	11:21 PM
Wednesday	12:28 PM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services							
CATHOLIC							
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm							
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm							
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm							
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am							
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm							
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm							
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm							
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm							
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm							
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am							
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm							
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism							
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am							
PROTESTANT							
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm							
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm							
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm							
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm							
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions							
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm							
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)							
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto							
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)							
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)							
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday							
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm							
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am- 12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)							
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm							
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm							
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisú Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisú FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620							
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm							
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)							
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm							
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm							
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm							
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Alfeta St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Wednesday 7pm worship Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.		9am	Sunday school	10am	Regular worship	6pm	worship
9am	Sunday school						
10am	Regular worship						
6pm	worship						
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism							
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am -6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan		7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,
7am-9am	English service						
7am-9am	Sunday school						
10am-12noon	English service,						
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S							

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 25, 2000

All rebates out by next month
Owing it to the automation of the Northern Marianas tax system which fast-tracks processing of all revenue and duty transactions, the Department of Finance yesterday assured that all rebate and refund checks should be mailed out before the end of next month. However, acting Revenue and Taxation Director Dora S. Taitingfong said the anticipated release of approximately 37,000 rebate and refund checks by August will be realized if the finance department system would not encounter software-related difficulties. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said the Revenue and Taxation Division is already processing the third batch of rebates and refunds, which are expected to be mailed out and reach taxpayers' post office boxes on Friday.

Fed housing programs extended to NMI residents
Northern Marianas residents wishing to own their own home but could not qualify under existing local programs may now get their chance through the implementation of two federal housing programs on the islands, Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio said. The United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Office has earmarked \$1 million in initial guaranteed loan packages for Saipan residents, according to Mr. Tenorio. The program will be extended to Tinian and Rota residents depending on the outcome of its initial implementation on Saipan, said Rep. William Torres who received the notification from the USDA on the enforcement of the Guaranteed Rural Housing in the CNMI.

July 25, 2001

CNMI shines in Japan
The Northern Marianas made front page news in Japan over the weekend when one of the country's widely-circulated print publications covered a ceremony honoring Japanese leader Daisaku Ikeda, who was bestowed an honorary professorship by the Northern Marianas College. The recognition ceremony, attended by Japanese, NMC and CNMI officials, received extensive media coverage in the Soka Gakkai International newspaper's July 20, 2001 edition. The publication, which showed pictures of visiting CNMI delegates and photo clips of Garapan, Saipan students and a map of the CNMI, reached some 5.5 million Japanese households Friday. The issue's inside pages also showcased photos of CNMI's World War II sites.

DYS reports 250 juvenile cases in first half of 2001
The Division of Youth Services yesterday reported another increase in the number of minors involved in various criminal offenses, with more than 250 juvenile delinquency cases recorded in the last six months. In efforts to deter the continued rise in youthful offenses, Juvenile Probation Supervisor Syl S. Ada Jr. said an effective preventive strategy has been implemented. Ada said alternative activities to engage youths during school breaks are ongoing, noting that these should turn aside the minors' attention from vices.

July 25, 2002

Housing vouchers for jobless soar
The number of housing voucher recipients dramatically increased since the September 11 attacks and continues to rise in 2002 due to the persisting economic crisis in the Northern Marianas. Northern Marianas Housing Corporation officials saw an increase on the number of applicants for the Urban Development Section 8 Voucher Program from the latter part of 2001 all the way to 2002, due to rising unemployment in the Commonwealth. NMHC Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada disclosed that Section 8 applicants continue to line up at the housing corporation, seeking assistance under the temporary housing program. Because of the increasing number of Section 8 applicants, HUD granted the NMHC additional vouchers to accommodate families needing temporary shelters.

Babauta vows aid package for Rota
Gov. Juan N. Babauta has promised to come up with an assistance package for Rota's agricultural sector, even as the island's local government patiently await federal assistance from Washington D.C. In the meantime, the Rota Legislative Delegation is exploring other means of assistance, including tapping the aid of the Commonwealth Development Authority, which could give micro-loans to Rota's farmers and fishermen to get them back on their feet. Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona has also tapped the aid of Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio to help him follow up with the federal government to see what action, if any, it will take to assist Rota.

Business

Debt reduction pushes Ford to \$2.3B 2Q profit

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—Ford Motor Co.'s return to profitability last quarter won't last long unless it can boost sales of cars and trucks and continue to grab market share from rivals. On Thursday, Ford cemented its position as the healthiest U.S.-based automaker by reporting a surprise \$2.3 billion net profit in the second quarter, mainly due to \$10.1 billion in debt reductions that cut annual interest payments. The nation's second-largest automaker also cut 1,000 more blue-collar jobs with buyout and early retirement offers. From its core operations, however, Ford lost \$424 million. That was still a significant improvement over the second quarter of last year when it lost \$1 billion from its automotive and car financing businesses. But being the top-performing automaker in dysfunctional Detroit doesn't mean a whole lot. Ford's U.S. competitors, Chrysler Group LLC and General Motors Co., both are living on government aid and had brief stays under bankruptcy court supervision. Aaron Bragman, an analyst for the consulting firm IHS Global Insight, attributed Ford's progress to restructuring and product improvements made under CEO Alan Mulally, who was hired away from aircraft giant Boeing Co. in 2006. Mulally kept Ford from the same fate as Chrysler and GM by mortgaging its factories and even the familiar blue oval logo to borrow \$23.5 billion before the credit markets froze. Although borrowing money has moved Ford to the head of the class, that debt could come back to haunt the company if auto sales don't make the modest comeback predicted for next year. "The company really is not out of the woods yet," said Bragman. "There are signs of positive news, but they still have a pretty formidable challenge ahead of them." U.S. auto sales have dropped to levels not seen for a quarter century, unemployment is high and gas prices are so volatile that consumers are struggling to decide which cars or trucks won't cost a small fortune when they fill up at the pump. Still, Ford has managed to gain on its competitors, even as the auto sales slump pushed down revenue 30 percent to \$27.2 billion. The Ford, Lincoln and Mercury brands picked up two percentage points of market share to end the quarter at 16.4 percent. The automaker saw the smallest U.S. sales decline of any major automaker in June, down 14 percent from the same month last year. Cars like the new Ford Fusion midsize sedan, with sales up 21 percent last month, helped keep the company's sales relatively healthy in a terrible market. Also, the company's F-Series pickup trucks remain the best-selling vehicles in the country. While sales fell 11 percent in June, Ford still sold more than 102,000 of the profitable trucks from April to the end of June. Sales in regions outside of the U.S. helped the bottom line too, with Ford reporting pretax profits in Europe and South America.



Mulally

BUSINESS BRIEFS

McDonald's 2Q profit falls 8 pct on strong dollar
NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's Corp. said Thursday that even though more consumers chowed down on its burgers, fries and drinks in the second quarter, the stronger dollar and a year—ago gain led profit to dip 8 percent. The profit dip, and lower—than—expected growth in sales at established locations in June, caused shares to fall \$2.73, or 4.6 percent, to close at \$56.09.

Soft PC sales send Microsoft profit down 29 pct
SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. said Thursday its profit in the last quarter plunged 29 percent because of weak computer sales, ending a fiscal year in which the software maker's revenue fell for the first time since the company went public in 1986. Microsoft's revenue in the quarter was well short of analysts' expectations, and its shares skated down \$2, or 7.8 percent, to \$23.56 in after-hours trading. Before the earnings report the stock had gained 3.1 percent to close at \$25.56.

Raytheon 2Q earns up, Northrop falls
WASHINGTON (AP)—Two of the nation's biggest military contractors reported divergent second—quarter earnings Thursday, results that come as the defense industry begins to sort out the impact of shifting priorities in Pentagon weapons buying strategies. Military electronics maker Raytheon Co. said its second—quarter earnings rose 15 percent while Northrop Grumman Corp., best known for its Navy shipbuilding operations, reported a 20 percent drop in quarterly profits.

Nation

Obama remark on black scholar's arrest angers cops

BOSTON (AP)—Many police officers across the country have a message for President Barack Obama: Get all the facts before criticizing one of our own. Obama's public criticism that Cambridge officers "acted stupidly" when they arrested black Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. could make it harder for police to work with people of color, some officers said Thursday.

It could even set back the progress in race relations that helped Obama become the nation's first African-American president, they said.

"What we don't need is public safety officials across the country second-guessing themselves," said David Holway, president of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, which represents 15,000 public safety officials around the country. "The president's alienated public safety officers across the country with his comments."

Gates was arrested July 16 by Sgt. James Crowley, who was first to respond to the home the renowned black scholar rents from Harvard, after a woman reported seeing two black men trying to force open the front door. Gates said he had to shove the door open because it was jammed.

He was charged with disorderly conduct after police said he yelled at the white officer, accused him of racial bias and refused to calm down after Crowley demanded Gates show him identi-



President Barack Obama waves to supporters after speaking during a fundraiser, Thursday, July 23, 2009, in Chicago. AP

fication to prove he lived in the home. The charge was dropped Tuesday, but Gates has demanded an apology, calling his arrest a case of racial profiling.

Obama was asked about Gates' arrest at the end of a nationally televised news

conference on health care Wednesday night and began his response by saying Gates was a friend and he didn't have all the facts.

"But I think it's fair to say, No. 1, any of us would be pretty angry,"

Obama said. "No. 2, that the Cambridge police acted stupidly in arresting somebody when there was already proof that they were in their own home. And No. 3 - what I think we know separate and apart from this incident—is that there is a long history in this country of African-Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement disproportionately, and that's just a fact."

Obama health plan delayed—trouble ahead?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Slow down, Senate Democrats told President Barack Obama on Thursday, dashing hopes of rushing his sweeping health care overhaul to a summertime vote and adding to the troubles the plan could face as the year wears on. "That's OK," the president replied gamely. "Just keep working."

No one is suggesting that delay equals defeat. In fact, the Senate's top Democrat promised a bipartisan bill in the next two weeks. But Obama has been pushing hard for quick passage of legislation he can sign to expand coverage to all Americans and control ruinous medical costs. And he's counting on fast action while his first-year popularity holds.

Republican foes have been settling into a delaying game in hopes of weakening if not killing the historic

changes in the way America provides and pays for health care. But they're not the source of the immediate problem. Divisions within the ranks of Obama's fellow Democrats have stalled the legislation.

While confirming there will be no Senate vote before Congress goes home in early August, the chamber's Democratic leaders spoke optimistically of wrapping up a bipartisan bill in the next two weeks.

That offered no reassurance to Democrats in the House, many of whom are reluctant to vote on a \$540-billion tax increase to help pay for the overhaul unless senators also stick their necks out before an election year. Exiting a contentious leadership meeting, Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the third-ranking House Democrat, called for canceling the

August recess if a bill isn't passed.

On a trip to Ohio, Obama shrugged off the delay. "I want to get it right, but I also want to get it done promptly," Obama said.

The president compared the health overhaul to NASA's Apollo program that landed astronauts on the moon 40 years ago this week. "We can do this," he insisted.

But many are questioning the engineering of House and Senate committee bills that emerged in recent weeks. Doubts revolve around costs to taxpayers and the reach of government. In the House, moderate and conservative Democrats bucked against legislation written with a liberal tilt by party elders. In the Senate, moderate Democrats are insisting on trying to work out a deal with a handful of Republicans who are willing to talk.

AP IMPACT: Cash-strapped states raid 911 funds

NEW YORK (AP)—More than \$200 million collected from cell phone users for upgrades to the 911 system has been diverted in the last two years to plug state budget holes, keep campaign promises and, in at least one case, buy police uniforms, an Associated Press analysis has found.

Dispatchers say the diversion of money comes at the expense of improvements that would give crime and accident victims more opportunities to reach responders. Someone who has been kidnapped, for instance, may not be able to talk but might be able to quietly send a text message or a photo.

Cell phone subscribers in nearly every state pay anywhere from 20 cents to \$1.50 a month for what is described in their bills as 911 improvements. In some states, the AP analysis found, less than half that money is actually going to help emergency dispatchers keep pace with the features of smart phones.

As states hammered by the recession look around for new ways to balance their budgets, the 911 money is tempting:

■ In New York, only 19 cents of the \$1.20 the state collects from each subscriber each month goes to emergency calling services. The rest pays for uniforms for the state police, a wireless

network for emergency responders and the state's general expenditures.

■ In Wisconsin, a new 75-cent monthly fee was supposed to pay for ongoing 911 operations and improvements. When the state's deficit grew, the state decided to divert \$100 million in the next two years to local governments to reduce pressure to raise property taxes.

■ In Arizona, lawmakers funneled \$25 million from its emergency telecommunications fund, halving its size, and cut its monthly 911 cell phone fee to 20 cents. As a result, the fund could be out of money within three years.

3 NJ mayors, lawmakers arrested in corruption case

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—An investigation into the sale of black-market kidneys and fake Gucci handbags evolved into a sweeping probe of political corruption in New Jersey, ensnaring more than 40 people Thursday, including three mayors, two state lawmakers and several rabbis.

Even for a state with a rich history of graft, the scale of wrongdoing alleged was breathtaking. An FBI official called corruption "a cancer that is destroying the core values of this state."

Federal prosecutors said the investigation initially focused on a money laundering network that operated between Brooklyn, N.Y.; Deal, N.J.; and Israel. The network is alleged to have laundered tens of millions of dollars through Jewish charities controlled by rabbis in New York and New Jersey.

Prosecutors then used an informant in that investigation to help them go after corrupt politicians. The informant—a real estate developer charged with bank fraud three years ago—posed as a crooked businessman and paid a string of public officials tens of thousands of dollars in bribes to get approvals for buildings and other projects in New Jersey, authorities said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Documents: US al-Qaida recruit trained as bomber

NEW YORK (AP)—An American-born terrorist-in-training learned how to shoot rockets and assault rifles and construct a suicide bomber's vest at al-Qaida camps in Pakistan, according to documents obtained Thursday by The Associated Press. Bryant Neal Vinas took courses in plastic explosives and bomb theory, according to a statement he gave to investigators as part of a terrorism case in Belgium. The statement, provided to the AP on Thursday, was to be released after a hearing Friday, officials said. Since the 26-year-old New York man's arrest in Pakistan in November 2008, Vinas has become one of the most valuable informants in the war on terrorism, giving investigators a fascinating and rare look into al-Qaida's day-to-day operations in a lawless region bordering Afghanistan.

Calif. lawmakers begin debate over budget bills

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The California Senate has begun debating a complex legislative package that is intended to close the state's \$26 billion deficit. Trying to get the series of 31 budget-balancing bills through both houses of the Legislature was expected to take most of Thursday night and perhaps go into the next morning. The Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate opened the debate by striking a bipartisan note. Each said the compromise contains much for both

parties to dislike.

Ore. faith-healing pair acquitted of manslaughter

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon couple who relied on prayer instead of medical care were acquitted of manslaughter Thursday in the death of their 15-month-old daughter. The jury convicted the father, Carl Brent Worthington, of criminal mistreatment, a misdemeanor carrying a maximum sentence of a year in jail. The mother, Raylene Worthington, was acquitted in their daughter Ava's 2008 death. Both had faced manslaughter charges, which could have carried a sentence of up to six years in prison. The mother also was acquitted of criminal mistreatment.

Principal fired for jumping on students in cafe

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (AP)—A high school principal who admitted jumping atop a pile of students during a cafeteria food fight has been fired. The Upshur County Board of Education voted Tuesday to oust Brenda Wells from Buckhannon-Upshur High School. She'd been suspended since late May. Wells said earlier this month that she jumped onto what she called "a dog pile" of four or five students while attempting to stop a food fight. Wells said she jumped on the pile to relieve the tension. She said she was back on her feet before you could count to one. She said it was all in fun.

Asia

Clinton, NKorea exchange barbs on nukes

PHUKET, Thailand (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton and North Korea exchanged pointed barbs Thursday, with Clinton declaring North Korea "has no friends left" and the communist regime calling the U.S. secretary of state a "schoolgirl."

The sharp words came as North Korea announced it had refused to re-enter talks to terminate its nuclear weapons program.



Clinton

Clinton said the world has made it clear to Pyongyang that it has "no place to go," citing near unanimity among Asian nations, including China, on fully enforcing the latest U.N. sanctions against North Korea for its repeated nuclear and missile tests.

Warning the North's nuclear ambitions could spark an arms race in the region, Clinton said the U.S. would continue to vigorously enforce tough U.N. sanctions and insist that the north "irreversibly denuclearize."

But she held out the prospect of restoring U.S. diplomatic ties and other incentives—actions the Obama administration would be willing to consider if the North Koreans dismantle their nuclear program.

"We urge North Korea to return to the six-party talks, look beyond the past and join others in finding the way forward," said Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, who hosted the ASEAN Regional Forum,

a security conference among 27 countries and organizations that ended Thursday.

Clinton, who trumpeted Washington's renewed involvement in Asia during the conference, departed the resort island for Washington, wrapping up a weeklong trip to India and Thailand.

"North Korea's continued pursuit of its nuclear ambitions is sure to elevate tensions on the Korean peninsula and could provoke an arms race in the region," Clinton told a news conference before her departure. Just moments before she spoke, a spokesman for the North Korean delegation said his government would not return to talks with the U.S., Japan, South Korea, China and Russia, citing the "deep-rooted anti-North Korean policy" of the United States.

Judge accepts Mumbai gunman's confession

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The trial of the lone surviving gunman in the Mumbai attacks will continue despite his surprise admission of guilt, a judge ruled Thursday, ensuring that the young Pakistani will be prosecuted for all 86 charges including murder and conspiracy to wage war against India.

Ajmal Kasab, 21, unexpectedly confessed Monday to taking part in the November attack that paralyzed India's financial capital and killed 166 people.

The court had delayed a decision on whether to accept his confession and guilty plea, with prosecutors arguing that his statement was incomplete and accusing Kasab of seeking to avoid the death penalty. In response, Kasab said he was willing to be hanged for his actions.

Trial of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi to resume

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Lawyers for Myanmar's jailed pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi are scheduled to present final arguments Friday in their efforts to save her from a five-year prison term.

Suu Kyi, 64, is charged with violating the terms of her house arrest by harboring an uninvited American man who swam to her lake-side home and stayed for two days. She is being detained at Myanmar's notorious Insein Prison.

Nyan Win, one of Suu Kyi's defense lawyers, said the legal team met with her Thursday to finalize their 23-page closing argument, which will be presented when the widely criticized proceedings resume Friday afternoon.

"We are very optimistic because our arguments are based

on solid legal points," Suu Kyi's main lawyer Kyi Win said. "We have the law on our side, but we don't know if the judges are on our side."

The defense has not contested the basic facts of the case but argues the relevant law has been misapplied by the authorities. They also assert that the security guards who ensure Suu Kyi remains inside her compound should also be held responsible for any intrusion on her property.

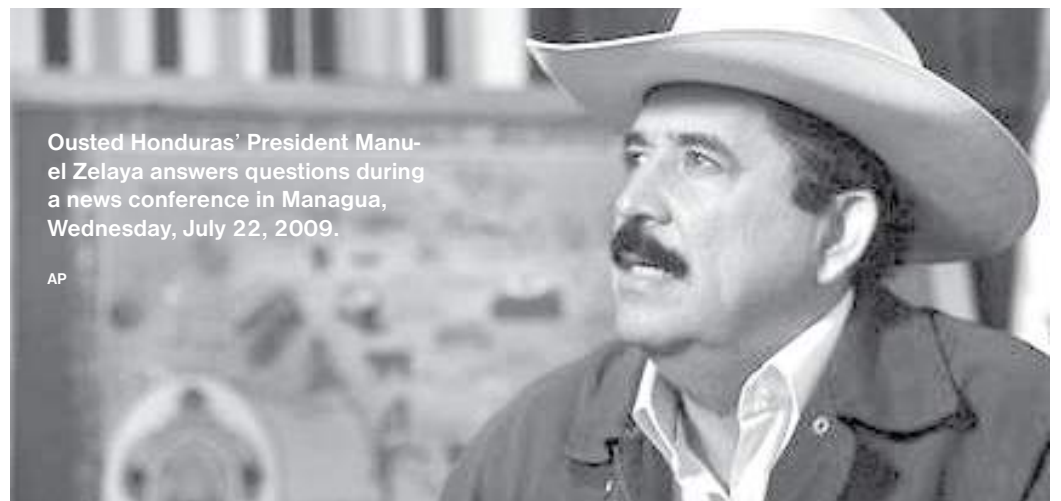
Diplomats from Britain, France, Germany and Italy who had earlier requested access will be allowed into the courtroom for Friday's session, a diplomat said on condition of anonymity citing protocol. It will be the third time during the mostly closed-door trial that such access has been granted.

ing were mainly migrant workers, their family members and other staff who had been repairing a section of national highway, Xinhua said, citing Xiang Luo, the head of the Communist Party in Kangding.

Graying Shanghai encourages couples to have 2 kids

BEIJING (AP)—Family planning officials in Shanghai are making home visits and slipping leaflets under doorways to encourage certain residents to have a second child in a bid to lessen the burden of the city's growing senior population. A statement about the new campaign posted Thursday on the Web site of the Shanghai Population and Family Planning Commission was quick to emphasize that it didn't signal any change in China's one-child rule and was only an attempt to let people know about the policy's many exceptions. About 3 million, or 21 percent, of Shanghai's nearly 13.7 million registered residents are now aged 60 or older, the statement said, and providing for them poses a huge challenge for the city.

World



Ousted Honduras' President Manuel Zelaya answers questions during a news conference in Managua, Wednesday, July 22, 2009.

AP

Deposed Honduran leader prepares risky return

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Honduras' deposed president headed toward his nation's border Thursday to prepare a risky return home, an attempt to reverse an ouster that is testing the vitality of democracy in Latin America.

The interim government that sent Manuel Zelaya into exile vows to arrest the president if he sets foot in Honduras. Zelaya said he would make a second at-

tempt to return home Saturday, saying U.S.-backed attempts at mediation had broken down.

Accompanied by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro, Zelaya drove a white jeep out of the Honduran Embassy in Nicaragua, heading toward the northern town of Esteli, where he said he would spend Friday preparing for his return. Honduran Embassy officials broke into applause and chants of "Long

live Mel!" using his nickname.

Zelaya said he hoped soldiers at the border would stand down when they see him. He called on supporters to meet him at the border, although he has not yet said exactly where he plan to cross into Honduras.

"I think the guns will be lowered when they see their people and their president," Zelaya said at a news conference shortly before leaving.

Biden brings tough love to Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—A year after Georgia's disastrous war with Russia, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden assured the small country on Thursday that the United States stands behind it in their continuing conflicts with their region's dominant power.

But his message was tempered by tough love. While saying Russia should withdraw its forces

from two separatist Georgian regions, Biden also said Georgia should abandon any hopes of reclaiming those regions by force.

Further, he assured that the United States would stand behind Georgia's sovereignty, but Georgia must still strive to build a democratic society, six years after its peaceful Rose Revolution ousted a Soviet-era leader

and brought President Mikhail Saakashvili to power.

"Your Rose Revolution will only be complete when government is transparent, accountable and fully participatory, when issues are debated inside this chamber, not only out on the streets," Biden told federal and local officials from across the former Soviet republic.

Rising casualties raise doubts abroad on war

BERLIN (AP)—Rising casualties in Afghanistan are raising doubts among U.S. allies about the conduct of the war, forcing some governments to defend publicly their commitments and foreshadowing possible long-term trouble for the U.S. effort

to bring in more resources to defeat the Taliban.

Pressure from the public and opposition politicians is growing as soldiers' bodies return home, and a poll released Thursday shows majorities in Britain, Germany and Canada oppose

increasing their own troop levels in Afghanistan. Europeans and Canadians are growing weary of the war—or at least their involvement in combat operations—even as President Barack Obama is shifting military resources to Afghanistan away from Iraq.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran opposition leader's brother-in-law arrested

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The wife of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi said Thursday that her 62-year-old brother is among the hundreds arrested in Iran's postelection crackdown, as Mousavi warned that the country is becoming "more militarized" amid the turmoil. Mousavi implicitly accused the security forces of exceeding their powers under Iran's constitution, suggesting that the "near-coup d'état atmosphere" was a danger to Iran's Islamic Republic. Police, the elite Revolutionary Guards and the Basij militia arrested more than 2,500 people in their heavy crackdown against protests that erupted in support of Mousavi after the disputed June 12 election. More than 500 of them remain in prison, including many top politicians from pro-reform political parties, human rights lawyers, journalists and activists. Arrests have continued in recent weeks.

Dutch return severed head of Ghana chief

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The descendants of an African chief who was hanged and decapitated by a Dutch general 171 years ago reluctantly accepted the return of his severed

head Thursday, still angry even as the Dutch tried to right a historic wrong. The head of King Badu Bonsu II was discovered last year in a jar of formaldehyde gathering dust in the anatomical collection of the Leiden University Medical Center. The Dutch government agreed to Ghanaian demands that the relic be returned. On Thursday, members of the king's Ahanta tribe, dressed in dark robes and wearing red sashes, took part in the hand-over ceremony, honoring his spirit by toasting with Dutch gin and then sprinkling the drink over the floor at the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

Fishing is key issue as Iceland applies to join EU

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Iceland formally applied Thursday to join the European Union but said it would not accept a "rotten deal" for its fishing industry, a key sector of the island nation's troubled economy. Iceland's parliament voted last week to seek EU membership as a way to stabilize the country's economy, which was one of the first casualties of the global recession after years of strong growth. The small North Atlantic country of 320,000 residents already meets most of the EU membership criteria, but tough negotiations await over fishing rights.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Election win confirmed for Indonesian president

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A final count by the Election Commission has confirmed a one-round election victory for Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Results published Friday on the commission's Web site gave Yudhoyono 61 percent of the popular vote, more than twice his nearest opponent. Yudhoyono will be sworn in on Oct. 20 and will serve a 5-year term through 2014.

China media say 4 dead, 50 missing in landslide

BEIJING (AP)—A landslide triggered by heavy rain hit a county in southwestern China's Sichuan province early Thursday, killing at least four people and leaving 50 others missing, state media said. The dead were employees of an engineering company who were working on a hydropower project in Sichuan's Kangding county where the landslide occurred, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The 50 still miss-

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, July 25, 2009

DSWD warns of bogus travel permits for minors

By NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Department of Social Welfare and Development Wednesday warned against unscrupulous individuals issuing travel clearances for minors traveling abroad accompanied by people other than their parents.

Only DSWD regional offices are authorized to issue a travel clearance for minors, Social Welfare Secretary

Esperanza Cabral said in a statement. She stressed that the social welfare and development offices of local governments are not authorized to issue such a clearance.

Cabral said the agency has received many complaints against “fixers,” or people acting as agents to obtain travel clearances for a fee.

“Only DSWD regional offices are authorized to issue the travel clearance which will certify that the child, not in the company of biological parents, is authorized to travel abroad for

valid reasons based on the assessment of a social worker,” she said.

The DSWD requires a travel clearance for minors below 18 years as a safeguard against child trafficking.

The document has to be obtained by the parents or legal guardians of minors traveling alone or with someone other than their parents.

The DSWD issued the following guidelines:

■ A travel clearance may be obtained within three working days of the date of travel from the DSWD

field office where the application is submitted, provided all requirements have been fulfilled.

■ The requirements are: Duly accomplished application form; photocopy of the birth certificate or passport of the minor; written consent from both parents, the solo parent, or the legal guardian; photocopy of the marriage certificate of the minor’s parents, or certificates establishing solo parenthood; and two colored passport-size photos of the minor taken within the last six months.



New RP consul general
to arrive tomorrow

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The newly appointed CNMI Philippine consulate general, Medardo G. Macaraig, is set to arrive early morning tomorrow.

Macaraig is replacing Wilfredo DL. Maximo, who last month ended his tour of duty on Saipan. Maximo served six years as the Philippines’ highest diplomatic official on the islands.

Maximo is now assigned to the Department of Foreign Affairs’ Privileges and Immunities Division in Manila.

Consul Belinda Ante is the acting consul general since Maximo’s departure last June 24.

Ante said that Macaraig is expected to report to office on Monday.

The new consul general will leave Manila late in the evening today, July 25, for a stopover to Guam before arriving at the Saipan International Airport early morning on Sunday.

Macaraig served as consul at the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Canada.

Some of the programs Maximo wants the next consul general to continue include the quarterly free health screening and livelihood training and seminars.

RP SOLAR ECLIPSE

Filipino Muslims grapple for a neutral density filter to view a partial solar eclipse in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday July 22, 2009. The longest solar eclipse of the 21st century pitched a swath of Asia into near-darkness after dawn, as millions watched the once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon Wednesday.

President’s men hit hard at ex-DND chief

By JOCELYN UY, CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA, MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It’s all “hallucination.”

Administration stalwarts came down hard Thursday on former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz for saying that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo planned to remain in power beyond the end of her term next year and for urging soldiers to disobey unlawful orders.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said he was wondering what Cruz had experienced as Ms Arroyo’s defense secretary that he was now having “nightmares.”

“He is now working for a presidential candidate. He should confine his comments to politics and stop talking about things he knows are really not true,” Puno told reporters at Camp Crame national police headquarters.

“Asking our men in uniform not to obey their lawful superiors is a matter of wishful thinking. There are no illegal orders ... there is hallucination,” said Puno, who was guest

speaker at the launch of the national firearms control program.

In a speech to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines on Wednesday, Cruz warned about a “disturbing pattern” showing that the Arroyo administration intended to remain in power.

He also mentioned supposed moves to cut short the terms of military and police officials “loyal to the Constitution” to give way to soldiers, particularly members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1978, who are trusted by Ms Arroyo.

Roxas supporters

Puno advised Cruz, who is reportedly supporting Sen. Mar Roxas’ presidential bid in the May 2010 election, to stop engaging in “rumor-mongering.”

“I would like to assure him that there is nothing like that going on and he can just campaign normally and be not afraid about ghosts anymore,” Puno said.

Gen. Victor Ibrado, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said that he was unaware of govern-

ment plans to declare martial law.

“I don’t know and I have not heard of any plans like that,” said Ibrado, who has been rumored to be among those military officials being eased out to make way for soldiers Ms Arroyo was “more comfortable” with.

AFP will not allow it

He said that the military would not allow itself to be used to promote the political ambitions of any group or individuals.

“We have been saying that to our troops, that they should not follow orders that they know are illegal,” Ibrado said.

Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa said he was certain that there would be elections next year.

“Both the AFP and the PNP perform their functions according to the mandate of law and according to the provisions of the Constitution,” Verzosa said.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., AFP spokesperson, said that security forces were capable of addressing threats to peace and order and that there was no need for martial law.

LABOR FRONT

Procedures for transfer

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Q: If an alien worker gets Labor’s approval to transfer to a new employer, how can he or she process the approved transfer?

A: An alien worker whose request for permission to transfer is granted will have 10 days, after the date of the order from the Labor hearing officer approving the request to transfer, to have the employer file the transfer application with Labor Processing.

According to Labor’s notice of procedures and deadlines for administrative transfers, transfer applications under this procedure will be processed as they have been in the past. If the transfer application contains a deficiency, a notice of deficiency will be issued to the employer and the foreign national worker.

Q: What will happen if Labor issues a denial to an alien worker’s transfer application?

A: The Labor’s procedures state that if a denial is issued, a notice of denial will be issued to the employer and the foreign national worker. Either an employer or a foreign national worker may appeal a denial within 15 days by filing a written notice of appeal with the Labor Administrative Hearing Office.

Q: How Labor is looking into an alien worker’s request to transfer to a new employer?

A: Before the Labor hearing officer considers a request for administrative transfer, each unit of the Labor Department will have an opportunity to review the request for transfer and object. According to Labor’s procedures, if no objection is filed, the hearing officer will issue an order granting permission to transfer. If an objection is filed, the hearing officer will schedule a hearing on the objection. The official who made the objection has the burden of proof in that hearing.

If any unit at Labor makes an objection, the employer and the worker will be provided with a notice of the objection indicating a nature of the objection and the person to see to clear the objection.

A 10-day period is allowed to clear objections. If all objections are cleared, the request for administrative transfer will be put back on the hearing schedule and approved. If all objections are not cleared, at the end of the 10-day period the request for administrative transfer will be scheduled for a special hearing and any outstanding issues will be decided.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader’s reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune’s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

Philippine rebels rule out talks despite truce

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels said Friday they will only resume peace talks if an international body guarantees an autonomy deal with the Philippine government despite President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's order for her troops to hold fire.

After a year of sporadic clashes in the southern Philippines, Arroyo ordered Thursday a suspension in military operations against the 11,000-member Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Her aides hope that will restore trust and allow some 300,000

villagers displaced by the conflict to return home.

The rebels have been fighting for Muslim self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation for decades. Talks broke down last year when the government accused them of attacking Christian villages after the Supreme Court threw out a preliminary autonomy deal as unconstitutional.

Chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal welcomed the government's truce and said he would order guerrilla commanders to hold fire starting Saturday.

But he ruled out a resumption of peace talks without "an international guarantee" that any outcome of negotiations would be implemented.

He has previously mentioned the participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations but acknowledged the government was cool to such a proposal because it may call into question its sovereignty.

"We are very clear to the government: Unless a certain mechanism is in place, we won't talk to the government anymore be-

cause we don't trust the government any more," he told DWIZ radio. "We cannot go directly to the discussion of the political settlement."

The preliminary deal, which was supposed to be signed in Malaysia last August, would have expanded an existing autonomous region in the south.

It ran into opposition from Christian politicians who feared losing land and power, and they asked the high court to block it, provoking disgruntled Muslim rebel commanders to go on deadly rampage through several

coastal communities.

Iqbal said a cease-fire signed in 2003 was still holding and that the fighting since last August involved only about 20 percent of the guerrilla force.

Chief government negotiator Rafael Seguis said Arroyo's order to troops would also allow some 300,000 displaced villagers to return to their homes and farms.

In the past year, more than 500 clashes have taken place in the marshy heartland of Maguindanao province, about 560 miles (900 kilometers)

south of Manila, leaving 123 guerrillas and 41 soldiers dead, the military says, although the rebels say they only lost about 20 men.

Separately, hundreds of troops were recently sent to Basilan and Jolo islands for a new offensive against a smaller but more violent group, the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf. The government has rejected talks with Abu Sayyaf since it considers them terrorists because of their involvement in bombings, kidnappings and beheadings of hostages.

Fil-Am activist names torturers

Roxas mentions 'RC,' 'Dex,' 'Rose,' 'James,' 'Boss'

By **NIKKO DIZON**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Filipino-American activist who returned from the United States to back her claim of having been abducted and tortured by state agents named her tormentors at a public hearing conducted Thursday by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

For five hours marked by a couple of short breaks, Melissa Roxas, 31, detailed a six-day ordeal in May, mentioning "RC," "Dex," "Rose," "James," and a man whom they referred to alternately as "Boss" or "Sir."

Roxas, a member of the US chapter of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan-USA) and of the Los Angeles-based cultural group Habi Arts, occasionally took long pauses before answering a question, as if gathering courage. At times her voice cracked, or trailed off.

But she said with certainty that she would be able to tag Rose on they meet again.

She said that while she was blindfolded for the most part of her captivity, she had managed to "cheat the blindfold" by peering through the cloth and was thus able to see the profiles of Rose and RC.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima told reporters after the hearing that the commission would conduct a closed-door session with Roxas on Friday for the purpose of drawing up sketches of the purported torturers.

"The names could possibly be only pseudonyms. They don't even have last names. But we will ask Melissa to describe them to an artist so we can have a sketch," De Lima said.

'Can we be friends?'

Roxas told the commissioners that as though to add insult to injury, the man who called himself RC offered friendship to her and told her to forget the six days of fear and pain.

She recounted that the night before she was told she would be taken home, RC told her: "Can we be friends? You're go-

ing to forget this happened."

Rose, on the other hand, identified herself as a member of a church group.

Roxas said the woman helped her take baths and stayed with her in her cell at night.

She said it was James who interrogated her. On another day, she said, he introduced himself using a different name but his "very distinct Visayan accent" gave him away.

Boss or Sir, who interrogated her as well, was not called by any name, Roxas said.

The same was true of the man who punched and slapped her, slammed her head on the wall, and tried to suffocate her with plastic bags, she said. But she clearly remembered him as the one who asked her if she was ready to die.

"I said, 'Opo (Yes),' " Roxas said, her voice breaking.

Knowing her roots

This was what Roxas said at the hearing:

She had been living in the Philippines since April as part of an "extended exposure program" as a member of Bayan-USA.

Her trips to the Philippines as an activist, including visits to Central Luzon provinces such as Pangasinan and Zambales, were part of "knowing her roots" and being exposed to the "actual realities" of the lives of Filipinos.

She took part in Bayan activities, such as the campaign to surface missing University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sheryl Cadapan, studying the 2007 report of United Nations Rapporteur Philip Alston, working with the fisherfolk in Navotas, and joining various human rights forums.

On May 19, Roxas and local Bayan members Juanito Carabeo and John Edward Handoc were in a house owned by a "Kuya Jesus" in La Paz, Tarlac, when armed men barged in and forced them out.

She was put in a van but she fought like mad and kept on shouting her name as her way to

alert people on the abduction.

"They could not put tape on my mouth because I kept pulling it off. Inside the van, I was retching and throwing up," Roxas said.

She said that it was inside the van that the armed men were able to cover her eyes with a cloth and cuff her.

She added that she was accused of being a communist, held incommunicado and beaten while blindfolded and cuffed, and then dropped off near her uncle's home in Quezon City six days later.

Roxas said it was during the watch of RC, Dex and Rose that she saw Carabeo and Handoc one night shortly before she was freed.

She said her two companions appeared to have been also tortured, and that they tried to convince her to just admit to what their captors were insisting on—that she was a member of the communist New People's Army.

She said she knew that Carabeo and Handoc were also terrified.

Souvenirs

Roxas said that after six days in captivity, she was driven to Quezon City accompanied by RC, Rose, Dex and two other men trailed by another vehicle carrying Boss.

She said the group could not find her uncle's house and had to ask for directions.

When finally they found the street, they let her off the vehicle and Rose removed her blindfold. They also gave her a small bag.

Roxas said RC told her not to turn around and to count to 100 before walking to her uncle's house.

She said she managed to count to 100 but could not move, afraid that they might seize her again.

"I heard RC call out to me to tell me to start walking," she said.

When Roxas finally got inside her uncle's house and opened the bag, she found a



Melissa Roxas

Bible, a copy of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera," some cookies, a cell phone and a pair of handcuffs.

Souvenirs, she thought. Then the phone rang. It was RC.

"I didn't know what to do. I was panicking. My cousin told me to turn [the phone] off," Roxas said.

Her cousin shortly got rid of the bag and the phone. Roxas kept the books as well as the slippers and T-shirt that Rose had made her wear.

These items were presented to the commissioners, who said they would have the bar codes on the books' price tags checked to find out where these were purchased.

Writ of amparo

Shortly before returning to the United States early in June, Roxas filed a petition for a writ of amparo, which the Supreme Court turned over to the Court of Appeals for disposition.

The appellate court subsequently required Roxas to attend a hearing as a requirement for being granted protection.

In an affidavit, Roxas said that during her captivity, she heard "construction activities" including "blow-torching and hammering," as well as "guns firing as though in a firing range and planes taking off and landing."

Bayan said it appeared that Roxas was held and tortured by members of the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Col. Leonido Bongcawil, the chief of staff of 7th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Ralph Villanueva, vehemently

"We should not single out Fort Magsaysay, but we're not also ruling out Fort Magsaysay," De Lima said.

Courage

The human rights group Karapatan praised Roxas for her testimony, saying her colleagues had also been released but had not come forward to tell their stories.

"We admire her courage to face the commission just to prove that what happened to her is really true," said Karapatan secretary general Marie Enriquez.

"We hope this [hearing] will also open other cases of torture and disappearances in the Philippines," she added.

Earlier, Gen. Victor Ibrado, the Armed Forces chief of staff, denied Roxas' claims and said he had ordered a separate military investigation.

Ibrado said he was told that "there was no such incident that happened" in the Tarlac area. But he promised to present any soldier who may be identified as a suspect. *With a report from Associated Press*

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Target for overseas voters still 1M

INQUIRER.net

MANILA, Philippines—The target number of overseas absentee voters for the 2010 elections is still one million, said Ambassador Nestor Padalhin, vice chairman of the Department of Foreign

Affairs' OAV Secretariat.

While the number of registrants is still low (a little less than 145,300 as of July 22), he said the target is not impossible.

"In the first year when the OAV was first implemented, about 300,000 registrants in two months," he pointed out.

Padalhin said he is relying on the last-minute mentality. "Magdadagsaan sa last minute," he said.

Together with the half a million OAV registrants from previous elections, the total number of Filipinos abroad who may vote in the 2010 elections is

around 650,000.

According to the OAV daily report, there are now a total of 145,300 new OAV registrants as of July 22. Of the number, 39,925 are from Asia and the Pacific, 27,785 from the Americas, 27,251 from the Middle East and Af-

rica, 16,747 from Europe, 16,985 from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, 11,651 from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, 3,104 from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and 1,852 from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

More Filipinas being used as drug 'mules'

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—More and more Filipino women are being used as couriers or "mules" by international drug traffickers, according to the Philippine Embassy in Hanoi.

In its report to the home office on Wednesday, the embassy said it learned about the syndicate's modus operandi from a woman who sought their assistance after she was stranded in Vietnam after a trip to Cambodia.

The embassy said the prospective "mule" had been told by alleged recruiters to bring with her a package supposed

to contain slippers to be sent to China. The package, however, was not delivered because of a miscommunication between her and her Nigerian contacts.

An interview by embassy officials indicated she may have become unknowingly involved in illegal drug trafficking.

The officials said this may partly explain why some of those caught for alleged drug trafficking claimed they did not know anything about the drugs found in their possession.

The victims were apparently banking on jobs promised them in China in exchange for bringing "personal things" to China for their "benefactor."

The embassy also revealed an in-

cident where three Filipino women were offered \$500 to \$600 each by a Nigerian to deliver 5-10 pieces of T-shirts from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to China. The T-shirts could have been immersed in liquefied illegal drugs and then dried before delivery, it added.

Earlier, the Philippine Embassy in Beijing appealed to Filipino travelers to heed the government's warning not to allow themselves to be used as couriers by drug syndicates.

China and other countries strictly impose harsh penalties on persons caught in possession of or who engage in the trafficking of prohibited drugs.

11 suspects tagged in murder of Laguna exec

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Police have identified and charged 11 suspects in the murder of a Laguna provincial board member and his men last June 24, after one of the suspects voluntarily surrendered to authorities, a police spokesman said on Friday.

In a statement, Senior Superintendent Rene Diaz Ong, chief of Calabarzon's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group identified the 11 suspects as Jimmy Mileda, alias Onte, Pelagio Masongsong alias Malayot, Jerry Araneta,

Angel Masongsong, Lino Vecina, alias Ka Vic, alias Maysel, alias Jake, alias Jommel, alias Dodot, and several other John Does.

The suspects were charged before the Department of Justice with three counts of multiple murder and two counts of multiple frustrated murder for the killing of Danilo Yang, his Brando Delos Santos, and Romulo Barcenas, former village chief of Santiago 2 in San Pablo, Laguna, Ong said.

Yang's bodyguard, Joven Lopez, and bystander Mark Edward Herrera were also wounded in the attack.

The ambush took place while Yang

was sponsoring an amateur singing contest in a village in Laguna.

One of the suspects, "Onte," voluntarily surrendered to members of Task Group Dy, which was created to look into Yang's death. Quoting Onte, Ong said Maysel was the one who masterminded the attack on Yang and his escorts.

The suspect also reportedly confessed of his participation in the killing, Ong added.

"Onte" is currently under the protective custody of Task Group Dy.

Despite the surrender of one of the suspects, authorities have yet to determine the motive behind the attack.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

Untangling finances when marriage ends

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My husband and I are in the process of filing for legal separation. Although we do not own any real estate property together, we do have joint bank accounts. I also have a supplementary credit card, with him as principal cardholder. Other than that, we don't have other assets or accounts that are linked to each other as far as I know. What must we do?—Maricar

Answer: When a marriage ends, it is necessary to untangle financial lives as well. With legal separation and also for an annulment, you are in effect declaring that you want to live separate lives; your finances must be separated as well.

Although it may be difficult, strive to keep an open communication line with your former spouse. Come to an agreement regarding what to do with your investments, accounts, and debit and credit cards, among others.

According to Use Credit Wisely, a publication of Citibank, "A legal separation does not change your agreements with creditors. You could be liable for marital debts even if a court-approved decree orders your former spouse to pay them."

Thus it is wise to still be in touch with your spouse to check if he has paid all your marital debts. If not, work out an arrangement or even pay off the loan yourself so your credit history will not be affected.

Establishing your credit history is now essential since you will be on your own. Protect your credit. Use Credit Wisely lists down the following steps you should take as you and your former spouse undergo legal proceedings:

1. List all credit accounts. These include loans and credit card accounts. Determine the current balances of these accounts.

2. Make your required payments. See to it that credit card loans and other loans are paid before their due date. "Late payments and other problems may become part of your credit history. Your future ability to obtain credit could be affected and cause problems later on," advise the authors of Use Credit Wisely.

3. Contact your creditors. Let them know that you are undergoing changes in your personal lives, and need to separate accounts.

4. Untangle your marital credit. With your former spouse, close a joint account and request that your account as supplementary credit card holder be closed as well.

5. Establish independent credit. Apply for your own bank account

and credit card. The bank will review your individual assets, income and credit history in determining the appropriate action regarding your credit card application. Don't be discouraged if your credit limit may be low at first. As you establish yourself as an independent and reliable credit customer, you may be given a higher credit limit later on.

Once you have your own credit card and bank account, maintain good credit by doing the following:

1. Pay your bill on time. Late fees will just add to the cost of your borrowing, and will affect your credit history.

2. Pay at least the minimum amount due. If you can pay in full or pay an amount higher than the minimum amount due, do so. If funds are tight, aim to at least meet the minimum amount due. Bear in mind, though, that interest will be charged on the unpaid balance rolled over.

3. Don't overextend yourself. Charge only purchases you can afford to pay. Be as careful with credit as with cash. Experts say no more than 20 percent of your monthly take-home pay (excluding rent and mortgage) should go into paying debts, including loan payments and credit card payments.

4. Spend as you earn. Don't spend (by charging today) what you have yet to earn in the future.

5. Notify creditors of your new address and phone number when you move. This will ensure the prompt delivery of bills and will help you meet your debt payments on time. If you don't receive the bill on time, call the credit card company to get your balance and due date as you are not excused from making the required payment. Better yet, sign up for electronic statements to be sent to your e-mail address so you will be sure to receive all your bills way before the due date.

Having your own financial accounts demands responsibility. Take care to protect your credit.

(INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts.)

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SONA PREPS

Two men in costumes play roles as Filipino police walk near them during a demonstration of skills at Manila's Rizal park, Philippines on Sunday July 19, 2009. The event aims to prepare police units in crowd control procedures as they expect thousands of people to flock the streets during the State of the Nation Address of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo next week.

AP

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Preliminary probe of Halili libel rap ends

By JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Quezon City prosecutors office on Thursday morning ended its preliminary investigation of the libel complaint lodged by actress Katrina Halili against the mother of her ex-lover, cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho.

The camp of respondent

Irene Kho submitted a rejoinder affidavit in which they answered an earlier reply affidavit filed by Halili.

Lawyers for both parties said they would not be filing memoranda or a summation of their arguments.

A resolution, whether junking the complaint or elevating it to the court, is expected to be issued within two months.

Belo says audio CD 'irrelevant'

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Justice (DoJ) gave beauty expert Dr. Vicki Belo and her co-accused in the video sex scandal until



Dr. Vicki Belo

Friday to submit their opposition to Katrina Halili's bid to use as evidence a recording of the conversation of Belo, Dr. Hayden Kho and Lolit Solis.

Belo's lawyer Adel Tamano said the audio CD was "irrelevant." Belo appeared Tuesday before the panel to answer questions in a close door clarificatory hearing.

The audio CD purportedly contains a plot to demolish the credibility of Halili, who filed a complaint against Kho over their leaked sex video.

But Belo said Solis, during the meeting, simply wanted her

and to patch things up with estranged lover Kho.

Aside from Belo, Eric Johnstone Chua, Princess Marie Velasco and Dr. Mark Herbert "Bistek" Rosario also faced to panel Tuesday.

Diet rapped over employees' SSS registration



Diether Ocampo

MANILA, Philippines—Actor Diether Ocampo is facing a complaint for not presenting records of his workers at a water refilling station during an inspection by the Social Security System in 2008.

In a one-page complaint, the SSS alleged that the actor committed a violation of Republic Act 8282 or the Social Security Act of 1997.

The SSS claimed that it asked Ocampo (Diether Pascual in real life) to present records of his employees such as time sheets, payrolls and appointment papers during a routine inspection in 2008 but the actor allegedly failed to do so.

The inspection was part of the SSS's duties to verify employer records to see which employers have delinquent accounts with the SSS.

HOME BODY

Sunshiny and cheery

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—With her husband Jappy Pascual, "Unang Hirit" host Lyn Ching built a "sunshiny and cheery" home in a Quezon City subdivision.

For starters, the three-story residence is painted a happy shade of yellow.

Lyn admits that she was very exacting when the workers were mixing the paint.

"I wanted a specific shade of yellow. It's not too strong and lemony, more mango yellow, but a bit lighter. Very Mediterranean."

She also made sure that the home would be airy and relaxing—like a laid-back resort that offers a breathtaking view of the Antipolo mountains. "When friends visit, they find it hard to leave," she says.

Good air circulation

High ceilings and windows in every room guaranteed good air circulation in the house, she notes. "We save a lot on electricity consumption. In the daytime, we get natural light and only turn on the air-conditioner at night."

It's an earth-friendly neighborhood as well. "Each house is required to have a composting pit," Lyn says.

The 500-square-meter property adjacent to her in-laws' house, is the perfect space to raise two active kids: daughter Gaby, 4, and son Matty who's almost 2.

"The kids can run around the house," she says. "In the late afternoon, I take them strolling around the village. It's a pretty quiet community."

Favorite nook

Lyn, who's a certified home body, says that her favorite nook is the library.

"Since my husband and I put a premium on education, we both wanted a room that's conducive to studying," she relates. "Except that the library has become a play area, too!"

Strewn all over the library are Gaby and Matty's toys. "But Gaby also has her own shelf of books," says Lyn. "She started reading when she was three."

A supporter of the National Book Development Board, Lyn has amassed quite an extensive,

eclectic collection in her library.

"I'm obsessed with the teenage romance novel series 'Sweet Dreams.' I only lack nine out of 231 titles," she relates.

She's also hooked on non-fiction tomes, the "Twilight" series and anything pertaining to royal families.

"If you notice, the books are arranged alphabetically and classified according to genre," she points out. "I'm very O.C. talaga."

Also displayed in the library are souvenirs from the couple's travels: dolls from Russia, prints from France, drums from Indonesia, trinkets from Estonia, Vietnam and the United States.

If the library is the female territory of the house, the basement is her husband's turf. "It's off limits to us. That's his 'office,' where he plays computer games and keeps his sports and movie memorabilia."

Husband Jappy painstakingly puts together miniature models of vintage cars. "If I'm addicted to books, he's into toy cars," says Lyn.

Common ground

The two polar opposites, however, find a common ground in

the bedroom, painted a bright tone of red.

"It's the color of passion," she quips.

She also made certain that there's minimal clutter in the master bedroom. "We wanted our room to be as simple and bare as possible."

Lyn, who confesses that she's clueless about interior design, got a lot of help from decorator Susan Lacson, architect Lerma Evangelista Balolong and engineer Jade Irigo who created a modern Asian look for the place.

Hanging in the kitchen are paintings by Gene Gonzalez and Dranreb Belleza. In the hallway, a painting made by an elephant from Chiang Mai, Thailand, is displayed.

Apart from Lyn's portraits by leading Filipino painters and photographers, she's also proud of an authentic and autographed "Tarzan" cartoon by Disney animator Glen Keane.

The centerpiece in the kitchen is an abstract painting—another gift from her in-laws, like the Budji Layug dining chairs.

"Some pieces in this house are gifts from family and friends. I love the feeling of being loved," she enthuses.

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Lyn Ching

Another die-hard MJ fan

MANILA, Philippines—I was pleasantly surprised to find out that, just like me, Daphne Oseña-Paez is a die-hard Michael Jackson fan. She strikes me as someone who would go for classical music. Ever so poised, I never pictured Daph dancing to MJ's "Thriller."

I got misty-eyed when I read her blog about MJ. Check it out at <http://daphneosena.livejournal.com/87709.html>.

Daph is due to give birth next week. I teased her that she should name her baby Michael or Michaela. For sure, when her tummy pops, she'll be humming the King of Pop's songs in her head.

Why the mystery?

Dingdong Dantes is all agog over preparations for his foundation in time for his birthday on Aug. 2. "The best birthday gift would be the support of my family and friends who believe in my cause," Dong says. "My foundation's value is for keeps. It's still in the birthing process so until then, I would like to keep the mystery."

His special relationship with Marian Rivera is no longer a mystery. What will he give Marian on her birthday on Aug. 12? "Anything material that she really wants," he replies, "aside from the intangibles, of course."

Even if Marian and Dong were both born under the sign of Leo, they don't clash at all. The "Lion King" and the "Lion Queen's" happiness is something to roar about!

Advance Happy Birthday, amigo. May all your kindness come back to you a hundredfold. In hundred dollar bills and otherwise.

Different tune

Maegan Aguilar refuses to comment about her dad Freddie Aguilar's issue with Charice Pempengco, Amel Pineda and Gary V. True to her dad's signature song, she's just being an ulirang anak.

Ka Freddie said Pinoy singers should stop singing foreign songs and instead promote OPM music abroad. Perhaps Freddie is just basing his comments on the worldwide success of his hit song "Anak." It has been translated in various languages. If he can do it, other Pinoy artists can do it, too.

Sad that music is supposed to be a universal language and yet Ka Freddie and other musicians don't seem to speak the same lingo.

Animated film

I'm more than ecstatic to be part of MTV Philippines' animated feature film, "Exit," which will be aired all over Asia. It's in line with its antihuman trafficking campaign.

I voiced the character of the Mamasan. Anne Curtis (Mei the victim), Dingdong Dantes (Ryu the undercover cop), Epy Quizon (Dulok the trafficker) and Ely Buendia (Chan the customer) lent their voices. too.

Catch it on July 24 at 7 p.m., July 26 at 3 p.m., July 29 at 5:30 p.m., Aug. 1 at 9 p.m., Aug. 3 at 10:30 p.m. and Aug 13 at 8:30 p.m. It was my first time to do dubbing. I've always believed in trying everything once and I end up surprising myself.

May the message of "Exit" enter and stay in your hearts.

Fab family

Kudos to the fab family—Zoren, Carmina, Mavy and Casey Legaspi—for bagging the Tambuli Gold award for Best Family Oriented Campaign for their TV ad, Selecta. Tambuli is run by University of Asia and the Pacific.

Unlike other advertising awards, it takes into account the business results of the campaign. The Legaspi's charms have launched a thousand products and how.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

Singer files raps over botched butt job

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A singer filed a complaint at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) against an alleged fake doctor who botched a butt augmentation procedure on her

more than a decade ago.

Selina Sevilla, whose real name is Sharon Simon, filed the complaint at the NBI Special Action Unit against the fake doctor, who was known to her only as Dr. R. A. Eugenio.

Accompanied by her lawyer, Sevilla claimed Eugenio inject-

ed silicone oil on her buttocks 11 years ago. She added that she experienced adverse effects that would require her to undergo surgery to be treated.

She narrated that Eugenio did the procedure at his house, which also served as his clinic, on Dominga Street, Malate, Manila. She

said she paid Eugenio P20,000.

"I went to his clinic twice. The second time was a few months after the first procedure when I noticed that the size of my buttocks were uneven, so he fixed it," she said.

However, after a few years or about five years ago, she felt pain and she noticed that her butt started discharging an oil-like substance.

Maharlika – Opinyon

There's the rubout

Let us give praise where praise is due. And nowhere is it more due, or well past due, than to Leila de Lima, the Commission on Human Rights chairperson.

In the past, I've praised Chief Justice Reynato Puno for his contributions to improving human rights observance in this country. Or since that sounds so abstract, to making this country a little safer to live in, particularly for the poor and weak. Not least by introducing the writ of amparo, which has made it harder for the usual suspects to hide behind the curtain of national security to ply their murderous trade.

EDITORIAL

Fair warning

For every Romulo Neri or Ignacio Bunye, senior administration officials who kept their mouths shut or flapped their lips to protect President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the worst effects of self-inflicted scandals, there is an Avelino Cruz Jr., who resigned rather than betray the public trust. Once one of the President's favorite lawyers, Cruz quit one of the most powerful portfolios in the Cabinet, the Department of National Defense, in 2006, over the issue of the obviously fabricated people's initiative.

Last Wednesday, the resolutely low-profile Cruz once again placed public interest ahead of personal considerations when he warned the nation against what he called a "disturbing pattern" in the actions of the administration.

Pointing to several troubling indicators, such as the worrisome fact that at least 50 retired generals from the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police now occupy key posts in the government, Cruz asked: "Is this indicative of an administration consolidating its grip on our country's security apparatus?"

Cruz raised at least three significant concerns in wide-ranging remarks at a forum organized by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the Legal Network for Truthful Elections.

He said that, based on what he knew of the fake people's initiative campaign in 2006 that the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional and called "a grand deception," the President was also likely behind the continuing attempts to revise the Constitution, including controversial House Resolution 1109. Now this is nothing new, of course—except for the fact that a former member of the President's inner circle said it. This is additional confirmation of a special sort; it tells us, yet again, that the attempt to create a legal framework that would allow Ms Arroyo to stay in power has a long history. It goes back to immediately after the "Hello, Garci" scandal and the first impeachment complaint.

Cruz also said that he believes former Speaker Jose de Venecia, once a close ally and now, after the ZTE scandal, a political enemy of the President's, was telling the truth about Malacañang's attempt to obtain American support for emergency rule. "What I can say is that indeed Speaker Joe de Venecia has intimate knowledge of these events. I have also heard our former ambassador to the United States, Alberto del Rosario, narrate on television a similar version of events taking place in the last quarter of 2005. I have no reason to doubt the veracity of his narration." Indeed, as defense chief at the time, Cruz must have been privy to more inside information than he would, or could, or was ready to, reveal.

He also said, or implied, that the Arroyo administration was preparing a military option. He expressed confidence that any attempt by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to extend the President's tenure would fail—but the attempt would necessarily entail "bloodshed." He said: "I fear more for the consequences that our nation will have to suffer for the failed ambitions of a powerful few."

It was in this context that Cruz issued the impassioned call to the men and women he used to serve as defense secretary. "It is for this reason that I renew my call to our professional men and women in uniform to remain faithful to the flag and the Constitution and to disobey patently unlawful orders that only serve selfish political ends."

Patently unlawful orders. By that Cruz can only mean any attempt by President Arroyo or her key officials to use the country's soldiers to create an emergency situation (such as the bombs-designed-to-be-discovered which De Venecia had earlier described as the hallmark of government "special operations"); or to manipulate the May 2010 elections (in a repeat of the interventionist role played by key military officials in the 2004 elections, as exposed by the Garcillano wiretaps); or to engineer a form of transition government (such as the latest wild-eyed idea from National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales) through sheer force.

The country should consider itself warned. We should not let the undeniable build-up in anticipation for next year's elections lead us to a false sense of security. "Can we trust her word this time? Or is the country again being lulled into complacency? Is she creating the lull before the storm?" Cruz's questions must be raised again, and again, and again.

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I'd be remiss if I did not say the same things, or more, about De Lima. Laboring under even more tremendous constraints than Puno—she does not enjoy the same level of independence and prominence as the Supreme Court—she has pushed the envelope on human rights. Like Puno, she has pulled back human rights from the edge of the precipice, where it has been teetering for some time, and stood it on solid ground. More than Puno, she has reminded us that human rights are not just amenities of civilization, like social graces, they are matters of life and death in a completely, elementally, awesomely literal way.

You do not have human rights, you are dragged away screaming in the middle of the day. You do not have human rights, you disappear. You do not have human rights, you die. It is as simple as that. It is as dire as that.

Since she became CHR head, De Lima has been at the forefront of the fight against "salvaging," whether that is done by the military, as in the case of the political activists, or by death squads, as in the case of the dead in Davao. De Lima had quite a row with Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte over the latter a few months ago, refusing to be cowed by the peace-and-order or "halang ang kaluluwa" (the dead are better off dead, they are human dregs anyway) argument. The peace of the dead is no peace at all. The people who have no souls, or consciences, are not the dead, they are the ones who made them so.

It is De Lima as well who has given refuge to Melissa Roxas who has returned from the United States to testify against her tormentors. Roxas is the Filipino-American activist who, along with two companions, Juanito Carabeo and John Edward Handoc, were abducted and tortured by military agents in Tarlac some months ago. The military of course denies that, just as it has denied the close to the more than 700 activists they have murdered over the last few years. It claims that either Roxas manufactured the case or somebody else, not the military, took them. De Lima herself says that if Roxas manufactured the case, she must be a very good liar, her account being too detailed, too graphic, and too consistent. She did not go on to state the obvious, which is either that or the military is the liar, and not a very good one at that.

That brings me back to giving praise where praise is due. And nowhere is it more due, or well past due too, than to Roxas herself. It is a brave thing she is doing, one that should have a profound and lasting impact on ending barbarism in this country. Or specifically on putting

The world before science

Those who expect much are often left disappointed. The longest solar eclipse of the 21st century turned out to be a dud in the Philippines. Those who hoped for a spectacular show waited in vain.

When you hear "solar eclipse," you expect darkness to cover the face of the earth as depicted in films showing the crucifixion of Christ. There has been no visible total solar eclipse in the Philippines in living memory, and the only reference I found was an eclipse in the 17th century that brought terror upon the Spanish Philippines. This eclipse occurred at midday when the sun should be at its peak, when trees and buildings cast no shadow, when the sun was at its brightest and hottest. One can only imagine what it was like to have darkness at noon, when people had to illuminate their dwellings with torch and candle and confused roosters crowed. It must have been scary to see stars at midday, but when the sun came out it was greeted with sighs of relief and general rejoicing. What inspired fear was not the darkness, but the thought that the darkness would be permanent.

We who live at the dawn of the 21st century like to believe we are more advanced, more enlightened compared to people of centuries past. We do not fear comets and eclipses anymore; we look forward to them. I remember Kohutek, which was billed as the "comet of the century." Like many people, I waited for it with a toy telescope, but the comet did not show up. I have lived through a number of partial solar and lunar eclipses, and still wait for a visible total eclipse.

Before modern astronomy, Filipinos believed in the existence of a giant lizard or dragon that was capable of swallowing the flaming orb. When the sun disappeared at daytime, it was thought to be in the dragon's mouth. To get the monster to spit it out, church bells pealed, firecrackers were lit, drums were beaten, people shouted, animals and even babies were encouraged to cry out and intensify the noise barrage. People threw stones, spears and arrows at the dim silhouette of the sun, while others, literally, cursed the darkness. Expectant mothers and maidens visited by their monthly period were advised to stay indoors because watching an eclipse was believed to result in deformed children.

All these stories connected to folklore and legend are now extinct like dinosaurs because even children know that the sun- or moon-eating dragon does not exist. Many mysteries have been dispelled by science.

National Museum director Corazon S. Alvina re-tells a little known legend about the sun and the moon from the Mountain Province that is worth remembering in the light of the last partial eclipse:

"When the world was made, the sun and the moon were of the same

a stop to the "culture of impunity," as international human rights and journalist groups have called it, a far too polite term to refer to the brazenness, viciousness, and lack of culpability with which armed men, or indeed the Armed Forces, are murdering citizens.

Philip Alston, whom Raul Gonzalez called the "muchacho" of the United Nations, has already laid the blame for it squarely on the military, and suggested the "killing fields" are not random but the product of policy. Jovito Palparan, Norberto Gonzales, and Gloria

Macapagal-Arroyo will have much to answer for when their day comes.

What Roxas is doing is not easy. Trauma is the hardest thing in the world to deal with. I've seen friends tremble violently and lapse into incoherence at the sight of their torturers long after the torture happened. One friend did exactly that after seeing the captain who made an ashtray of him during martial law come over to shake his hand 20 years later. Roxas had to endure the ordeal of having a plastic bag thrown over her head, which is as near to drowning in dry land as you can get. That she has found the resolve to face the people who did that to her, or who agreed to it, or who ordered it, it is inspiring. No, more than that, it is awe-inspiring. Maybe fury or

outrage has done that. I hope it sustains her in what are going to be her most agonizing moments these next few days.

I am glad in particular about two things. One is that Roxas is a US citizen. That is probably the only reason she is alive today. And that is probably the only reason she will be able to leave this country in the same state. Were she not so, she would have been just another blade of grass added to the "killing fields." Were she not so, even De Lima's CHR might not be enough to protect her. She cannot possibly be comforted by the military and police vowing to get to the bottom of things. She can only find in it a not very veiled threat.

Second is that Roxas is a member of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), US chapter. For so long have Norberto Gonzales et al. gotten away with lumping together activist and rebel, civilian and combatant, dissenter and dissident, and making all of them fair game for executioners. It's time their obscenity is stopped. It's time they are stopped. That has no place in a democracy. That has no place in civilization. It's time the leprous sore is exposed for all the world to see.

Human rights are not an amenity, like tea. They are a necessity, like air. You do not have human rights, the meek will not inherit the earth. They will feed the worms.



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

dazzling radiance. Thus, the humans on earth had no rest at all because it was always day—time for working; there was no night—time for resting. They worked continuously, without sleep, for when the sun set, the moon rose, and when the moon set, the sun rose.

"It went on for a spell, until one day the sun took pity upon the humans who, the sun thought correctly, could last no longer than they already had. So the sun worked out a plan. First it got two handfuls of lime that it put on a large leaf. Then the sun laid this lime-laden leaf in the path of the moon. When the time came for the moon to pass, the sun told the moon to blow on the lime.

"The moon was tired and not eager to ask questions and dutifully gave the lime a good gust. The lime flew all over and even covered the moon, but not the sun who had smartly gotten out of the way. The moon could not shake the lime off; it even burned some spots.

"That is supposedly why the moon's light is dimmer and how it got its black spots. And also why there is time to rest and sleep at night, with the gently glowing moon. And why there is time to work and play during the day, with the blazing brilliance of the sun."

Today we know of places near the arctic where the sun is visible all day and night in the summer and is called the "midnight sun." During winter, they have polar nights when the sun hides for the whole day.

Unlike the Cordillera people, who made up the story recounted above, the modern Pinoy has no problem with 24-hour sunlight because of UV-protect sunglasses, sunburn cream in various degrees of

SPF protection, hotels and homes with "blackout" curtains, and airlines that provide eye-masks to enable sleep in daylight. When my favorite 5-year-old nephew tells me about the Transformers and all the obscure characters in the Star Wars saga, I ask myself if his childhood is diminished. Much of the wonder in the universe has been explained away by the Discovery and National Geographic channels.

I often rant and rave in this space about history not being read or studied enough and not being used as a source for literature and art. There is another untapped treasure in our indigenous folk tales, legends and epics that tried to make sense of the world before science. These simple tales provide a clue to our identity as a people, but my generation was reared on Mother Goose and the tales of Andersen and the Grimm brothers rather than the "Lam-ang," "Hudhud," "Malakas at Maganda," while my nephew's generation is reared on Hollywood sci-fi films.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu



Looking Back

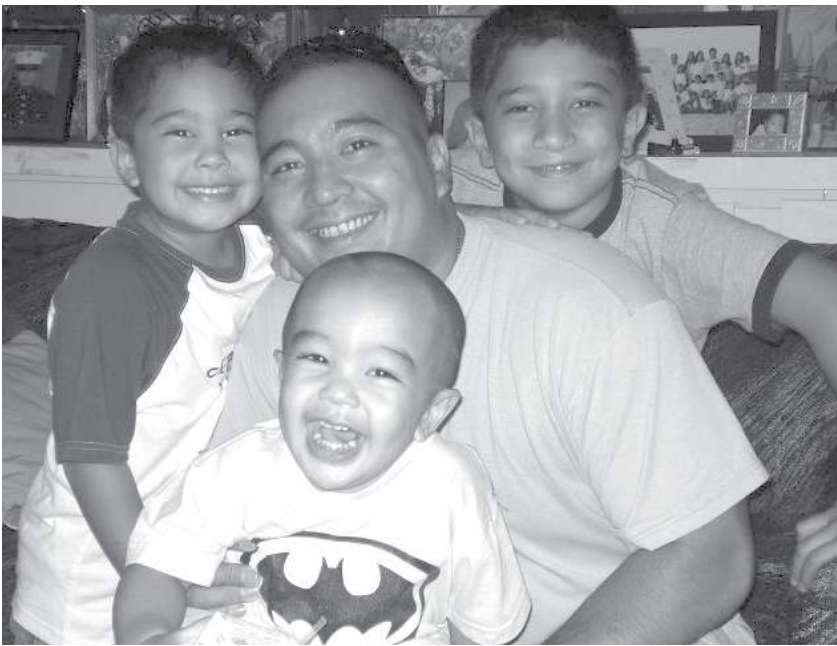
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu’t Sari

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD

Happy birthday to our father Peter John Mesa. Although we are not together physically to celebrate your special day this year, you know that the kids and I are with you in heart and spirit. We are wishing you all the happiness and love now and always. May God bless you and keep you safe today and always. We love and miss you and can't wait to be reunited with you again! Greetings from your loving wife, kids, and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Belated happy birthday to Reinabel "Ren Ren" Cabel Baltazar who celebrated her 4th birthday last Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at her parents residence in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. We love very much and we wish you good health and God bless you. Greetings from Dad Rannie and Mom Isabel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRANDPA
Happy 85th birthday to Dr. Jose "Papa" J. Lujan Chong. May you enjoy your Special day. Greetings of love from your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

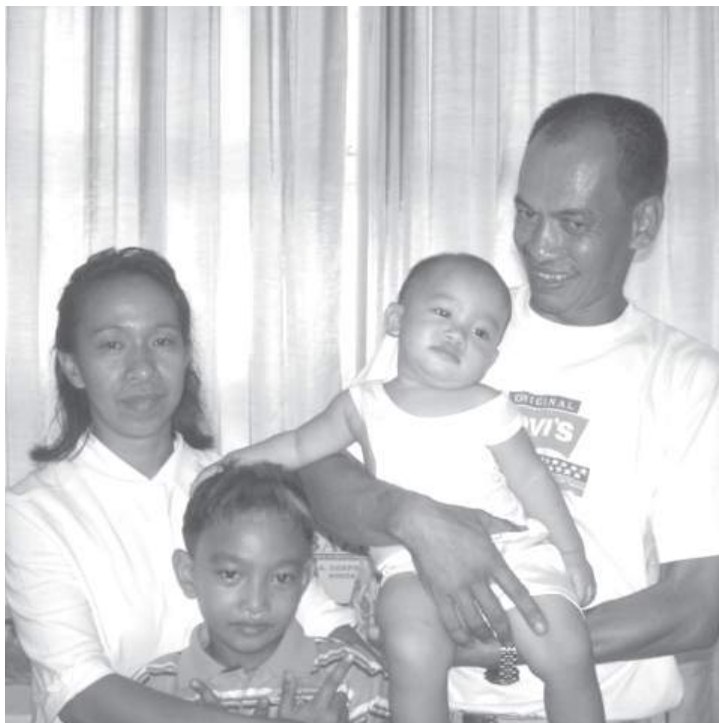
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SUMMER SCHOOL FUN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOD

Golden Harvest International School & Day Care offered summer classes from June to July, free of charge. The subjects taught included Reading & Phonics, Mathematics, Writing and Oral Communications, as well as Physical Education. Classes were handled by dynamic qualified, competent, and dedicated teachers. Ms. Bona Angles taught Physical Education, while Reading & Phonics and Oral Communications were handled by Ms. Loreliza Espiritu. Mrs. Rizo Paseylo taught Mathematics & Writing. The children had so much fun and enjoyment from the different daily activities—P.E and academic subjects. Principal Ms. Rose Tejada rigidly supervised and observed the activities of the children daily.



WELCOME TO THE CHRISTIAN WORLD
Belated happy christening and a happy first birthday to John Vega who celebrated both occasions last Sunday, July 19, 2009. The christening was held in Kristo Rai Church and the reception followed at the Fiesta Hall of Hafadai Beach Hotel. Greetings coming from Mommy Beth, Daddy James, and brother Bryan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

At the Barbie collectors' convention, one big boxing match

By KATE KILPATRICK
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Barbie collectors share much in common: They believe Barbie pink is the perfect color for lipstick, toenails and accessories. They fantasize about vacations where they hop from hotel room to hotel room in search of Barbie's cousin Smashin' Satin Francie or a mint-condition I Love Lucy Santa Claus Barbie. They define "holy grail" as that final doll or dress required to complete—at last!—a collection.

But on one issue the Barbie masses can't be reconciled: To debbox or not to debbox.

The answers are passionate and partisan.

"Debox! Debox! Debox!" shouted a pin worn by Molly Cruse, a Baltimore nurse and one of more than 1,100 visitors to the 2009 National Barbie Doll Collectors Convention being held here this week at the Marriott Wardman Park. The convention, which this year coincides with Barbie's 50th anniversary, runs through Saturday.

Cruse says she loves tearing into boxes to get her hands on her new toys.

"I collect them because I love them and I don't plan on reselling them," she says. "You can't appreciate the full gown or the detail of the cloth (when it's) in the box."

But not all Barbie girls, she acknowledges, are of like mind.



Amanda Eagan, owner of Diamonds and Dolls in Odessa, Mo., points out a crushed corner on a damaged Barbie doll box at the National Barbie Doll Collectors Convention in Washington. Such imperfection can drop the price drastically, even if the doll is perfect, so some collectors never unbox their dolls.

Adamantly opposing the De-boxers are the NREBists, for whom the 11th Commandment is: Thou shalt Never Remove From Box.

"People have a fit, they have a cow, if the box gets messed up," Cruse says.

Her friend Sherri Schuck, a prosecutor from Kansas, is a proud NREBist.

Schuck's Barbie collection boasts more than 600 dolls. Her husband built a showroom in their home where Schuck can periodically rotate the display.

"I collect a lot of dolls from the '80s and '90s—the pink boxes," Schuck says. "And a lot of the time the boxes themselves



A collection of Barbie dolls from Diamonds and Dolls in Odessa, Mo., with boxes wrapped in cellophane to protect the original cellophane. Diamonds and Dolls was one of the exhibitors at the 2009 National Barbie Doll Collectors Convention this week in Washington.

were actually part of the doll's scenery, the allure. You could cut them up, you could take things

off the box and use them as props for the doll. They just remind me of when I was a kid."

But these days she wouldn't dare take a Barbie out of the box, let alone bring scissors to the scene.

"For me the box makes the doll, too. It's just part of what she is," Schuck says. "I love to see them in their natural state, and to me it's in a box."

Tickets to the convention cost as much as \$400. In addition to hours of shopping each day, conventioners can attend Barbie workshops, competitions, evening parties and a fashion show. The events culminate with Saturday night's gala dinner, at which each guest receives a 50th-anniversary limited-edition commemorative doll.

For the first few days of this year's convention, before the official sales room was set up Thursday morning, collectors and dealers displayed their offerings from their hotel rooms. Buyers wandered the halls of the Marriott, entering any room with an open door (extra points if a pink boa or balloons decorated the doorknob). Within, boxed dolls, bagged dresses and disembodied heads covered bedspreads and were stacked high on bureaus and end tables.

And sifting through them: the box inspectors.

"I won't buy a damaged box with a corner smashed in. Unless I really want it that bad," says Kathryn Knack, an NREBist from Vinton, Iowa. Knack, a retired telephone operator, has

been attending the annual convention since 1993.

To cater to finicky NREBists, dealers take all sorts of precautions to protect their merchandise, inside and out.

Amanda Eagan, owner of Diamonds and Dolls in Odessa, Mo., wraps each box in cellophane to prevent scuffs to the original cellophane. She says she spent nearly three days carefully packing the boxes into a 20-foot trailer for the drive to Washington.

Alice Spackman, who sold the multimillion-dollar Diamonds and Dolls business to Eagan two years ago and is assisting her at the convention, says putting that much stock in a box is "silly."

"I had one lady years ago and she would spend hours looking at the box. And I often thought she probably didn't even notice that there was even a doll in that box," Eagan says.

But there's no convincing Erma Huntley-Rhodes, a die-hard NREBist from Asheville, N.C. "You look at the box corners. You make sure there's no marks, no tears, no wear," she says. Her motivations are partly practical: A doll that fetches \$15,000 in a mint-condition box could drop in value to \$5,000 to \$7,000 in a battered one.

Of her personal collection at home, Huntley-Rhodes says she keeps the dolls in cabinets and doesn't allow admirers too near.

"If you can touch them," she says, "then you're too close."

A book to chew on

By TRACY GRANT
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Chew on This"
By ERIC SCHLOSSER and CHARLES WILSON
Ages 9-13
318 pages



"Chew on This," by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson, is subtitled "Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food." This book is full of interesting information and facts about the food you eat and where it comes from.

Don't read this book over breakfast ... or lunch ... or dinner. And really, really don't read this book while downing a meal from a fast-food restaurant.

This book asks questions about food, questions that may have never occurred to you. What do you eat every day? Why do you eat it? Do you ever think about where that food came from or how it got to your table?

Just because a book is nonfiction, as this one is, doesn't mean that it's all facts. There are lots of opinions in this book, which tells about the history of the fast-food industry and looks at how companies target kids for their products, whether they're cheeseburgers or sugary sodas. It will be up to you as a reader to decide how to respond to the positions the authors take.

But some of the facts in the book may really surprise you:

■ A can of soda contains about 10 teaspoons of sugar.

■ Thirty years ago, teenage boys in the United States drank twice as much milk as soda. Now they drink twice as much soda as milk.

■ About 9 billion chickens are killed for food each year in the United States. That's almost 30 chickens for every person.

As you read, you can decide if you think the companies behind

Food journals

Do you know what it means to keep a food journal? That's when you spend a day or week or even longer writing down everything you eat. It's harder than it sounds! But keeping a food journal really helps you see the big picture of what you're putting in your body.

Try it for at least a day. You may look at it and realize that your mom is actually right: You're not eating enough vegetables. Then again, maybe you'll have concrete evidence that you are not eating too many sweets.

Of course, one of the best ways to really know what you're eating is to cook it yourself. There are a ton of good cookbooks for kids that can help you prepare a healthful, easy, delicious dinner for the whole family. (*The Washington Post*)

fast food and sugary sodas are as greedy and evil as the authors make them out to be. Are they cleverly encouraging people to eat things that are bad for them? Or are they just serving up what people want to eat?

Either way, this book is definitely food for thought.

How much punishment is enough?

Michael Vick, the former All-Pro quarterback, completed his prison sentence for an awful crime this week. The question is: Should Vick be allowed to play in the National Football League?

As you may remember, Vick pleaded guilty to a dogfighting charge in 2007. The police investigation showed that Vick and his friends had trained dogs to fight, and sometimes kill, other dogs. The investigation also showed that Vick and his friends killed dogs that didn't fight well or were too hurt to fight.

So Vick committed a terrible crime. He did things no one should ever do.

Some people think that what Vick did was so bad that he should not be allowed to play professional football again. Others think that Vick has been punished and deserves another chance. This is not an easy question, because playing in the NFL is a privilege and not a right. But I think Vick should be allowed to play.

I should first mention that I own a dog. My family has a West Highland white terrier named Matty that we got from a rescue league nine years ago. I walk Matty at least twice a day and make sure she has food and water. I would never do anything to hurt Matty, and I hate the idea of people hurting dogs.

But Vick served the punishment given to him by the court. He spent nearly two years in prison. He paid almost \$1 million for the care of the dogs that had been in his dogfighting ring. Vick has paid

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Fred Bowen writes
KidsPost's sports opinion
column and is an author
of sports novels for kids.



a heavy price for his crime. Is it fair to add to his punishment by not allowing him to play football?

Let's say you did something really bad, such as hit and hurt a kid at school. The principal decides that you should be suspended from school for 10 days. She also orders you to write a note of apology to the other child and his family. You do all the punishment. Would it be fair for the principal to say that you can't go out to recess for a month after you return to school?

It's also important to remember and believe that people can change. Kids know people can change because kids are changing all the time. Kids get bigger. They learn more things about the world around them. They also learn, by trying, making mistakes and trying again, to become better, kinder people.

No one can look inside someone's heart to see if he has really changed. Maybe Vick is still the kind of cruel person who would hurt a trusting animal. But I think he should be given another chance to show everyone he has changed. And we should all believe and hope that he can.

PUZZLE CARD

Time limit: 60 seconds!

How many different-size triangles are in the above drawing?

Answer: There are four sizes. The smallest has seven triangles. The next two sizes have three each. The largest has one. The total is 14 triangles.

THE MYSTERY TENNIS BALL!

How would you throw a ball so that after going a short distance it will stop, reverse its motion, and come back to you? It can't be hit or bounced off anything, and nothing can be tied to it (Give two answers.)

Answers: (1) Throw it straight up into the air. (2) Stand by a brook, throw the ball upstream, and wait for it to float back.

CHAIN REACTION!

Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along connecting lines. All of the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Lent, lend, lead, lean, load, loon, loot.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

BIRD BARD CARD CARE CAGE

A "CAGEY" PROBLEM

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed BIRD to CAGE in four moves. Can you change the following five words in four moves?

1. MEAN to KIND
2. DIRT to PAVE
3. ROCK to BAND
4. SEED to PACK
5. DEAF to LOUD

Answers: 1. MEAN, MEAD, MEND, MIND, KIND. 2. DIRT, DART, DARE, PARE, PAVE. 3. ROCK, RACK, RANK, BANK, BAND. 4. SEED, SEEK, PEEK, PECK, PACK. 5. DEAF, LEAF, LOAF, LOAD, LOUD.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American paleontologist, biologist and scientific historian Stephen Jay Gould who made the following observation: "The most important scientific revolutions all include, as their only common feature, the dethronement of human arrogance from one pedestal after another of previous convictions about our centrality in the cosmos."
- Those who study such things claim that spectators at horse races consume more snacks than fans at any other live sporting event.
- Duct tape is famous for the numerous uses to which it's been put, but you may be surprised to hear about this one: haute couture (of a sort). Every year, Duck brand duct tape holds a contest in which high-school students create prom dresses out of, yes, duct tape. The winner receives a \$3,000 scholarship for college.
- From the Yes, There Is a Word for It files: purlicue. When you extend your forefinger and thumb as if you're shooting an imaginary gun, the space between the two digits is know as the purlicue.
- The average bat lives approximately 18 years—and spends about 12 of those years sleeping.
- Iconic Elizabethan English playwright and poet William Shakespeare had no formal education past grammar school.
- If you travel to Tokyo and have the great good fortune to dine at the exclusive restaurant called Happo-en, you might be able to get a look at the oldest bonsai trees in the world. The specimens kept in the restaurant's private garden have been lovingly cultivated for between 400 and 800 years.
- When they're over the open ocean, tsunamis can travel at more than 500 miles per hour.

Thought for the Day: "If A is success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut."—Albert Einstein

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MAGIC MAZE

RED GRAPE VARIETIES

E	C	Z	X	V	T	R	P	N	L	J	N	Y	H	E
C	S	M	A	C	Y	W	V	T	R	H	A	R	Y	S
P	N	E	R	D	E	V	R	U	O	M	R	L	K	O
C	O	R	V	I	B	G	E	A	E	I	C	G	G	
A	B	L	Z	O	O	X	L	G	G	W	S	U	R	E
B	S	O	O	Z	I	N	F	A	N	D	E	L	E	D
E	R	T	P	I	O	G	T	O	M	M	T	L	N	L
R	J	I	G	T	B	O	N	O	E	D	I	B	A	O
N	A	Y	R	X	N	B	W	A	N	U	T	T	C	R
E	S	O	Q	I	P	O	E	N	S	I	E	L	H	E
T	N	K	P	O	L	L	I	N	A	R	P	M	E	T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Gamay	Mourvèdre	Pinot Noir	Tempranillo
Grenache	Nebbiolo	Pinotage	Teroldego
Malbec	Norton	Sangiovese	Zinfandel
Merlot	Petite Siran	Syrah	

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		15
x		+		+	
	÷		+		8
-		x		+	
	÷		+		7
7		15		15	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

15	15	7
4	3	9
4	8	8
8	6	4
8	1	5

These scammers use puppies as bait

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recently, I started receiving e-mails from what looks like a legitimate source (a real e-mail address, as far as I can tell, with a person's name on it, though not anyone I know personally). The e-mail says this person has a puppy for sale cheap, that it has its shots and its "AKC papers." If I were interested in getting another dog, I might be tempted, but I already have two dogs. How did this person get my e-mail address? Is it legit?—Sue R., Hartford, Conn.

DEAR SUE: Your gut instinct is telling you to be suspicious, and well you should. Although this type of e-mail seems legitimate, it is not.

What you describe is a "phishing" scam, in which the scammer tries to get you to reply to an attention-getting e-mail, in the hopes of gathering as much personal information about you as possible, or simply getting you to put lots of money up front. Trust me, there is no puppy on the other end of that e-mail, and the "real" name is not attached to a real person.

In fact, many fraud watch groups dubbed this particular type of e-mail "puppy scams." The e-mails were first noticed in spring 2008, and the American Kennel Club and Council of Better Business Bureaus quickly put out a



warning about them. The best thing to do when you receive unsolicited e-mails from an unknown person is to delete them, unopened. Don't respond to them at all. If you have been taken in by one of these false e-mails and lost money or personal information, report the incident to the local authorities. E-fraud is taken very seriously, and while you may not recover any money, you can help others from being taken advantage of.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Create spatter-paint art

On a recent trip to California to visit my cousin Ingrid and her family, I discovered what world-famous American abstract artist Jackson Pollock and 13-year-old Audrey have in common. When the urge to paint and create calls, they grab their medium, spatter and throw it all over their canvas and then stand back in joyful amazement. Color everywhere, shooting out in all directions! Pollack called his technique "action painting," while Audrey described hers as "just plain fun."

While Audrey is too modest to call herself a Pollock protegee, she will admit that she loves to experiment with "paints and crafty stuff," especially on the spur of the moment. That's exactly what she did when she and her middle-school friend decided that the canvas butterfly-style chair she decorated when she was an 8-year-old was definitely from another era. A faded "Girl's Rule" painted slogan and mini drawings no longer fit the updated look of her teen-style bedroom. Instead of tossing the comfy chair for something new, she repurposed it on a whim.

The girls removed the canvas from the frame, grabbed a drawer full of acrylic craft paints in squeeze bottles in Audrey's favorite colors, and headed outdoors in the backyard. They stretched it out flat on an old ping-pong table and the two of them started squeezing and squirting paint with abandon. The paint took a few hours to dry since some of it came out in "artistic" globs, but the look was sensational and the chair was decidedly hip and trendy.

Enjoy this easy and arty activity this summer using a variety of items you might want to decorate. If you use a plain cotton baseball cap, stuff it with newspaper to retain its shape while spattering. For a plain canvas tote bag, insert a piece of cardboard or waxed paper between the two layers to protect the backside from any paint that might soak through. Or, decorate other durable cotton items

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



such as visors, aprons, sneakers or even a lampshade.

Set up the project outside with plenty of newspaper placed under the item. Wear an old paint shirt to protect clothing, if you wish. Begin by squeezing out the paint in spurts, alternating with colors. Let dry thoroughly.

Note: Find acrylic fabric-style paint in small- and medium-size squeeze bottles at most craft and art-supply stores.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Cronkite eulogized as newsman, friend, father

NEW YORK (AP)—Walter Cronkite was remembered as a great journalist, sailor, friend and father during services that, despite the grandeur of the setting, felt remarkably comfortable—like the man.

"I was often asked, 'What he's really like?' And I would always answer, 'He's just the way you hope he is,'" said Mike Ashford, a sailing comrade of more than 30 years and one of the speakers at Thursday's funeral.

Another speaker, longtime CBS newsman and "60 Minutes" commentator Andy Rooney, recalled meeting Cronkite when they both were in England covering World War II.

"You get to know someone pretty well in a war," said Rooney, describing Cronkite as "such a good friend."

"I just feel so terrible about Walter's death that I can hardly say anything," he admitted, excused himself and left the pulpit.

The services were witnessed by a near capacity crowd at the elegant, enormous St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in midtown Manhattan, where the Cronkite family has worshipped for years.

Broadcast journalists—co-workers, competitors, successors—were on hand, including Connie Chung, Bob Schieffer, Diane Sawyer, Brian Williams, Dan Rather, Barbara Walters, Charles Gibson, Matt Lauer, Tom Brokaw, Morley Safer and Meredith Vieira. Comedians—actors Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller were also in attendance.

But there was also room for members of the public to pay their respects.

James Huntsburg and his wife, Sylvia, visiting from Canada, had heard about the funeral. Admitted to the sanctuary, they took their place in one of the pews.

Huntsburg said he grew up watching



In this photo released by CBS, people fill the pews before the beginning of the funeral service for Walter Cronkite at St.

Cronkite, who, he said, "touched me."

When he heard of Cronkite's death last Friday at 92, Huntsburg and his wife hadn't yet left from their home near Toronto for their Manhattan vacation.

"I feel blessed to be here," said Huntsburg, visibly moved.

For his reporting, Cronkite came to be called "the most trusted man in America" and was widely considered the premier TV journalist of his time. He anchored "The CBS Evening News" from 1962 until 1981—a period that included the Vietnam War, the space race, the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy as well as Martin Luther King Jr. and Watergate.

Sanford Socolow shared anecdotes from his many years working with Cronkite as a producer.

"Once," Socolow recalled, "he had this bizarre idea that he would ad-

lib the newscast without a script." As Cronkite's cue for the control room to roll each film clip, he would gently brush his nose with his hand.

"It was utter chaos," said Socolow. "It lasted for two days."

But repeatedly during the ceremony, Cronkite's passion for sailing his beloved boat, the Wytje, was celebrated.

Ashford offered vivid memories of their sailing adventures.

"Walter, hunched over the helm, would catch my eye, grin, and over the racket of the wind, holler, 'Sen—sational!'"

And veteran TV producer Bill Harbach, a Cronkite friend for a half-century, recited the John Masefield poem "Sea—Fever," movingly addressed to Cronkite.

Chip Cronkite affectionately gave thanks to his father for a host of things—on the water and off.

Amy Winehouse: I'm too short to have hit tall fan

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse told a London court Thursday that she was too short to have punched a fan in the face, saying her trademark beehive makes her look taller than she is.

The 25-year-old "Back to Black" singer is on trial accused of hitting dancer Sherene Flash in the eye after the fan asked to take her picture following a September charity ball in London's Berkeley Square.

Winehouse told District Judge Timothy Workman that, at "5 foot 2 1/2 or 5 foot 3" (about 160 centimeters), she was too short to have hit the woman in the face. Flash is 5 foot 7 inches (about 175 centimeters) tall. "My hair does make a difference," said the singer, who sported her signature hairdo in court.

Winehouse left the witness box to show Workman her shoes, which she said were similar to those she wore on the night of the alleged assault.

"These are really flat. They don't even have a sole," she said.

Winehouse, known as much for her chaotic lifestyle as her soulful music, arrived at City of Westminster Magistrates' Court for the hearing dressed in a gray pinstripe suit.

Winehouse, who was granted a divorce from her husband Blake Fielder—Civil a week ago, gave her name in court as Amy Jade Civil and sat quietly, occasionally taking notes, as prosecutors outlined the case against her.

She appeared relaxed and healthy as she took the stand and denied punching Flash. She said she had felt intimidated and annoyed when Flash "lunged at me and put her arm around me," and had only meant to push the other woman's arm away.

"I pushed her up, like away. I wanted her away from me," Winehouse said.



In this April 9, 2008 file photo, Anthony Daniels, a British actor who played C-3PO in all six "Star Wars" movies, poses with a model of the fictional robot at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh.

"It was more like an indication of 'leave me alone, I'm scared of you.'"

"I meant to just get her away from me. I was scared. I thought, people are mad these days, people are just rude and mad, or people can't handle their drink."

Questioned about her lifestyle, Winehouse—who has confronted by dozens of photographers when she left the courthouse to smoke a cigarette at the lunch hour—denied she was a prima donna.

"I'm not like that. I'm not a Jennifer Lopez—paint the room white before I get there and I want five bunches of lilies," she said.

Prosecutor Lyall Thompson said the incident was "a deliberate assault by Miss Winehouse."

'Twilight' sequel draws fangirls by the thousands

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Most camped out overnight. Some spent two nights outside the San Diego Convention Center. They wore homemade T-shirts, made friends with fellow fans and talked about their allegiance to Team Edward or Team Jacob.

They are the "Twilight" fangirls, and they came to Comic Con by the thousands to see the movie's stars in person at a panel Thursday for the film's sequel.

Director Chris Weitz was joined by Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart and Ashley Greene.

High-pitched screams drowned out the introductions.

Those same shrill screams (of joy) also threatened to overwhelm the dialogue during the clip filmmakers showed.

The clip shows Jacob (Lautner) teaching Bella Swan (Stewart) how to ride a motorcycle, but she's distracted by visions of the vampire Edward (Pattinson) with whom she fell in love. She crashes, and Jacob takes off his shirt to soothe her wound, provoking more fangirl screams. Lautner famously gained more than 20 pounds of muscle since for the role.



Taylor Lautner, left, Kristen Stewart, center, and Robert Pattinson, right, pose at a news conference held to promote their new film "Twilight: New Moon" at the Comic-Con International 2009 convention held in San Diego Thursday, July 23, 2009.

Pattinson, who was greeted with adoring screams when made his Comic Con debut with "Twilight" last year, said the event was "an eye-opener, and it's just gotten bigger and bigger since."

"None of us saw it coming," Lautner added.

"It's a little overwhelming to have so many people here," Stewart said, "but I guess it's a good thing."

'Star Wars in Concert' tour launching

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A worldwide "Star Wars" concert tour will hyperdrive across the planet.

"Star Wars in Concert" will feature a symphony orchestra and choir performing composer John Williams' music from the six "Star Wars" films. The performances will be narrated live by C-3PO actor Anthony Daniels and accompanied by a three-story-tall high-definition screen displaying movie footage synchronized to the live music.

"My role is not to be 3PO in 'Star Wars in Concert,'" said Daniels, who served as master of ceremonies when the concert debuted at London's O2 arena in April. "It is to be the host, to be the narrator. I very simply tell the story in segments. 3PO certainly features on screen quite a lot, and there are moments on stage when his spirit shines through."

Organizers plan to land the tour in several North American cities before embarking on a global journey. "Star Wars in Concert" will launch at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif., on Oct. 1, and make stops in Phoenix, Los Angeles, Sacramento; San Jose, Calif.; Seattle; Portland; Tulsa, Okla.; and Oklahoma City. Other cities will be announced later.



In this April 9, 2008 file photo, Anthony Daniels, a British actor who played C-3PO in all six "Star Wars" movies, poses with a model of the fictional robot at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh.

Manslaughter investigation targets Jackson doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's personal doctor is the target of the manslaughter investigation into the singer's death, according to court documents filed Thursday, the day after agents seized items from the physician's Houston clinic and a rented storage unit.

A search warrant approved by a Houston judge allowed authorities to seek "property or items constituting evidence of the offense of manslaughter that tend to show that Dr. Conrad Murray committed the said criminal offense."

Murray, 51, was with Jackson when he died and has been a central character in the investigation from the outset. The surprise search of his clinic Wednesday indicated authorities were focusing on him, but the warrant language made it clear he's the target.

Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Officer Bruce Borihan said he could confirm a search warrant was served but had no other comment. LAPD investigators have interviewed Murray twice but haven't labeled him a suspect.

Murray's lawyer, Edward



In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo as he opens the Acres Homes Cardiovascular Center at the Tidwell Professional Building, in Houston.

Chernoff, referred queries Thursday to the statement he made a day earlier in which he confirmed a search warrant had been executed and that none of the items seized had previously been requested by authorities.

The documents filed Thursday detailed items taken when federal

drug agents and Los Angeles police descended on Murray's clinic. Among them: 27 tablets of the weight loss drug phentermine, a tablet of the muscle relaxant clonazepam, a forensic image of a hard drive, rolodex business cards and e-mails.

The Jackson family has not

made any public statements since the search warrant was executed.

Murray, a cardiologist, is licensed to practice in California, Texas and Nevada, and records show he has had no disciplinary actions taken against him.

He was hired as Jackson's personal physician not long before he died. He was in Jackson's rented Los Angeles mansion when the pop star was found unconscious the morning of June 25 and tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

An official determination of what killed Jackson won't be made until at least next week, when the Los Angeles County coroner expects to have a completed toxicology report.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said Thursday he had sought information from "seven or eight" doctors and Murray is the only one he has yet to talk to.

Winter said Chernoff had offered to speak with the coroner Friday but without Murray present.

"We don't want to talk to the attorney, we want to talk to" Murray, Winter said. Chernoff issued a brief statement in response, saying Winter had not made any requests to interview his client.

Grandparents' subterfuge heals boy's hurt feelings

DEAR ABBY: We invited our 5-year-old son's entire class to his birthday party. Unbeknownst to us, another child had one scheduled the same day. Because my son was new to the school and hadn't made friends yet, he wasn't invited. Imagine how he felt when only one child showed up. Had even one parent RSVP'd and said there was another party that day, we would have rescheduled. Because good manners were disregarded, our child was hurt.



Dear Abby

I mentioned it to my parents, and to cheer our son up we decided to take him to the beach. When we returned and opened our front door, we found assorted wrapped presents with cards attached wishing our son a happy birthday and saying, "We're sorry we couldn't come to your party."

My folks did not tell us they were going to do it. They said they had "found" the presents on the porch and brought them inside while they were house-sitting. Their thoughtfulness and caring—not to mention their creativity—took away much of the hurt. I get tears in my eyes thinking about it. Our son is now in his early teens and has never been told the story.

I would like to thank my parents again and tell them how much their gesture meant. Also, please advise parents that when they receive an invitation to a child's party—or any party, for that matter—to RSVP! No child should have to feel that kind of hurt.

STILL GRATEFUL IN ROCK HILL, S.C.

DEAR STILL GRATEFUL: Your parents are loving, generous and resourceful. Your letter raises two important issues. Because your boy was new to the school was no reason for him to have been excluded. Many schools require that when the entire class is invited to a party, if the party invitations are issued at school, that all students be included.

Also, there seems to be confusion about what "RSVP" means. Some people think it means they should respond only if they plan to attend the gathering. Not so! The rules of etiquette dictate that if a prospective guest cannot attend, that he or she contact the issuer of the invitation and offer regrets.

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice. I have always valued my appearance and choose to dress nicely. I buy name-brand, high-quality clothing. I don't mind paying for the name and quality.

Over the last year I have lost more than 100 pounds. I have to buy new clothes monthly as my weight continues to drop. I am still buying name-brand garments.

Three or four ladies in my office could easily wear my things and have asked if I'll give my clothes to them. Abby, I spent thousands of dollars on my wardrobe. I had intended to sell the items at a garage sale to help finance my new one. How should I respond to those women?

GROWING THINNER IN KANSAS

DEAR GROWING THINNER: Congratulations on your weight-loss success. First, please do not sell your expensive items at a garage sale. You will get a better price if you place them at a consignment store. Second, when your co-workers ask for the items, tell them that you can't give them the clothes that no longer fit because you are selling them to cover the cost of things you need to replace. Then offer them the address of the consignment shop.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Angelina Jolie visits displaced Iraqis

BAGHDAD (AP)—Angelina Jolie on Thursday visited a settlement for displaced Iraqis in northwest Baghdad in her role as a goodwill ambassador for UNHCR.

The actor met four families whose members said their children could not go to school and they could not afford to pay for medical treatment, the U.N. refugee agency said.

Jolie said during her one-day trip that there is progress in returning Iraqis to their homes after years of war, but more needs to be done, according to UNHCR.

"This is a moment where things seem to be improving on the ground, but Iraqis need a lot of support and help to rebuild their lives," the agency quoted Jolie as saying. It was the actor's third trip to Iraq.

UNHCR estimates that 1.6

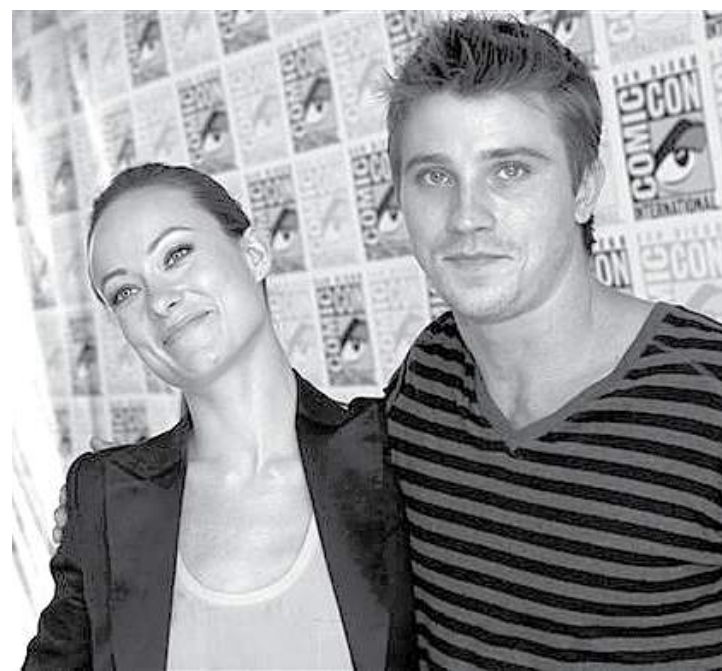


In this photo released by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie speaks with internally displaced people at a makeshift camp northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday, July 23, 2009.

million Iraqis were displaced within the country by sectarian violence, and that 300,000 have returned home amid improv-

ing security. It says hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees live in neighboring countries, mostly in Syria and Jordan.

Jeff Bridges returns to world of TRON, now in 3D



Actress Olivia Wilde, left, and actor Garrett Hedlund, right, talk about their movie "Tron Legacy" during a media event at Comic-Con in San Diego Thursday, July 23, 2009.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jeff Bridges promises the new "TRON" is just as groundbreaking as the 27-year-old original.

The 59-year-old actor and star of the original film came to Comic Con Thursday to help present early footage from "TRON: Legacy," due in 2010.

Bridges notes that when "TRON" was released in 1982, the Internet and personal computers didn't exist. The futuristic tale took viewers to a digitized virtual world, a concept that was decades ahead of its time.

Despite modern moviegoers' everyday interaction with technology, Bridges says he "can guarantee you're going to get the same kind of pop with this one. Everything's going to be super-sized."

Filmmakers showed some concept sketches and a brief, never-before-seen clip.

Weapons charges dropped against comedian Williams

NEW YORK (AP)—Manhattan prosecutors say gun charges against comedian and rapper Katt Williams have been dropped.

A spokeswoman for the district attorney said prosecutors moved Thursday to have the case dismissed because they "can't prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt."

Williams, who's 37, was arrested in November when police pulled over a Cadillac Escalade SUV and a Dodge minibus belonging to him. Police said two guns were in one vehicle and one in the other.

Defense lawyer Charles Ross said prosecutors learned the guns were legally registered in other states to two men who were with Williams.

Ross said he was "pleased that the DA's office did the right thing."

Williams lives in Woodland Hills, Calif. He has had roles in the movies "Friday After Next" and "Norbit."



In this photo taken July 22, 2007, Katt Williams is seen onstage during the "Comedy Central Roast of Flavor Flav" in Burbank, Calif.

Pastimes

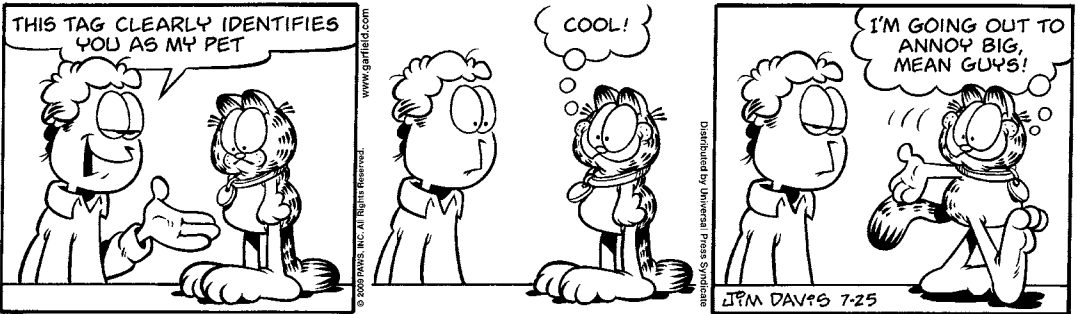
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

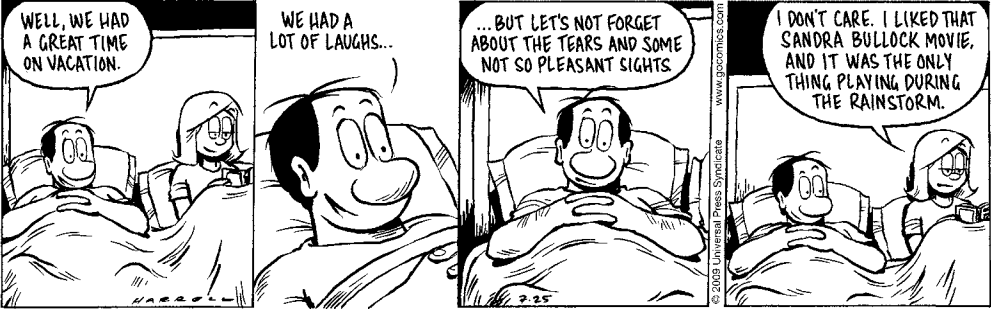


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

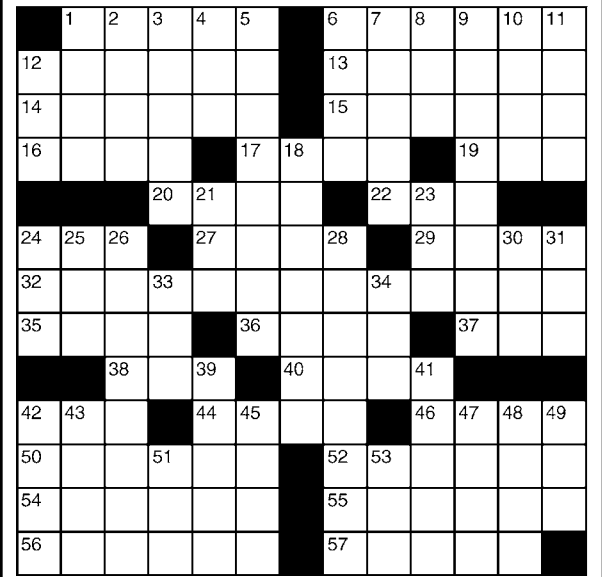
By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Yesterdays answer 7-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Welch, 22; Matt LeBlanc, 42; Thurston Moore, 51; Barbara Harris, 74
Happy Birthday: Putting things off will cost you physically, emotionally and financially. You have to be strong, forthright and willing to go the distance in order to stay on top of your life and your future. It's all about the way you play the game of life. Don't be shy when there is no time to waste and so much on the line. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 24, 36, 41, 48
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make plans to do something you enjoy with the people you like most. An emotional issue may surface if you leave someone out who was counting on being included. You will be able to discuss future plans. ***
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look in the mirror and, if you don't like what you see, maybe you should start by changing yourself rather than trying to change someone else. You have to be honest about what you really want, before you can begin to make it happen. *****
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An experienced and trusted friend will help you see clearly so that you can make a decision regarding where you are heading. Love will take some interesting turns if you share emotions and get complaints out in the open. **
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Touch base with someone you feel can be trusted and you can come up with a workable solution to any personal problem you face. You can-

not let love cost you financially or emotionally. Stick to whatever plan you have. ****
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let anyone talk you into paying his or her way or, even worse, doing things you don't want to do. You need time to sort out your thoughts so you can decide what will make you happy. ***
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Go over personal papers, legal documents or your investment portfolio. You have to make some changes or updates to avoid a costly situation. Expect a change of attitude in someone you thought you knew well. ***
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Organize activities, a fundraiser or a social event that will allow you to be entertaining and impressive and to meet people who can benefit you in the future. Make a point of doing something special for someone you care for. ***
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Offer a helping hand but don't let family or friends take advantage of you financially, emotionally or physically. On the other hand, getting involved in a cause you believe in will connect you to interesting people and allow you to make some much-needed reforms. *****
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Friends are likely to disappoint you and projects you take on will not live up to your expectations. Avoid getting into a conversation that will lead to discussing your feelings, intentions or discontent. Calm down first. **
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will enjoy getting down to the nitty-gritty

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



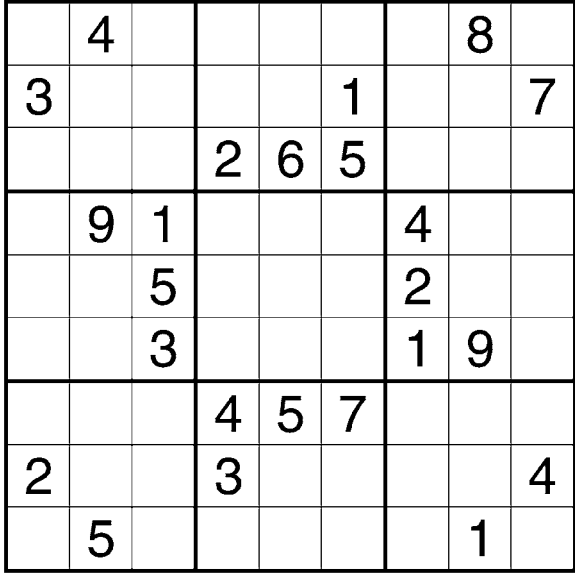
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of a deal that interests you. Money can be made and a serious attitude will bring some unique and favorable changes your way. Love is on the rise and can lead to a new commitment. *****
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time with the people you enjoy most. Fix up your place or revamp your look. Shopping will lead to some great buys. Share your enthusiasm with others and you will attract some affectionate attention. ***
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Back up and listen to good advice. Take another look at your situation and make personal adjustments. Expecting everyone else to conform to what you want will lead to isolation and emotional upset. ***
Birthday Baby: You are changeable and unpredictable. You strive for perfection and are critical of your every move. You see things clearly and act upon your observations.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

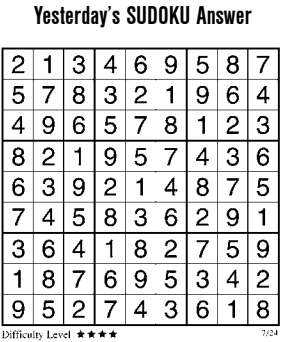
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/25 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA Solution: 8 letters
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A T M O U N T A I N S A E C H
R H S I R A P T Y A I X R S S
I N H I R T A E H R P P I E C
B A O W T E L R A L E L L O H
B T P A N R C F O T G I A C R
E I P R A A R R N T S T E I
A L I M T A O E X T T I A S
N O N Y S T L N E A R I N N T
A P G A I E O T R C T O V A I
C O R O U I S E M A N I A I A
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R S L E F L A I R T S U D N I
F O E G N E L L A H C I S I T
A C T I V I T Y B D I S C O Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Biblical
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

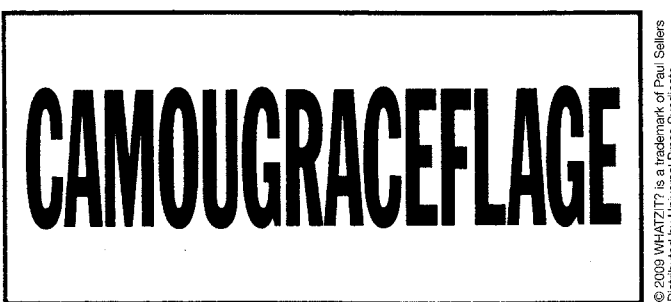
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Norma 'Normae' E. Patanao is no longer connected with **Philpan International Corp. dba MC Asia International Corporation;** therefore any transaction made by her on behalf of the company from the date she was terminated is null and void.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

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Fujimak Heavy Duty 4 Burner Range, with oven. Mod Number: FGHRH140 Serial Nr.:T 00068044 LPG fired. CAP 3.15 Very good condition. Oven with 1 rack, Stainless Steel body. \$750.00. pls. call Malou Vuelta - 2850360/2341610

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Looking to rent 2 bed house, ocean view, on hill, yard. Please call 989-8410.

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235-NEWS

White Sox's Buehrle pitches perfect game



CHICAGO—Mark Buehrle pitched the 18th perfect game in

major league history, getting a huge assist from Chicago center fielder DeWayne Wise and the White Sox beat Tampa Bays 5-0 on Thursday.

Wise, a ninth-inning replacement in center field, went over the yellow line on top of the wall in left-center to rob Gabe Kapler of a leadoff homer, falling to the ground and ending with the ball in his bare hand.

Michel Hernandez struck out and Jason Bartlett grounded to shortstop to complete the first perfect game since Randy Johnson threw one for Arizona on May 18, 2004.

Buehrle (11-3) struck out six in his second no-hitter. He no-hit Texas on April 18, 2007.

Buehrle went to three-ball counts on five batters, including 3-0 to Bartlett in the sixth. With two outs in the eighth, Pat Burrell lined one just foul to left field, with third-base umpire Laz Diaz making an emphatic "foul" call. Burrell lined out to third.

Angels 6, Twins 5, 10 innings

At Anaheim, California, Howie Kendrick's single ricocheted off second base in the ninth inning to drive in Los Angeles' tying run, and Mike Napoli's run-scoring double in the 10th capped the Angels' majors-best 31st comeback victory.

Los Angeles won its sixth straight game after a two-run, two-out rally in the ninth off All-Star closer Joe Nathan, who had converted 20 straight save chances and hadn't even allowed a run since May 15.

Napoli, who scored the tying run in the ninth, ripped a long drive to the wall in right-center off Jesse Crain (2-4). Los Angeles has won 10 of 11 since the weekend before the All-Star break, increasing its lead in the AL West over Texas to 3 1/2 games.

Brian Fuentes (1-2) pitched the 10th inning for the Angels, who have made comebacks in 10 of their last 13 victories.

Yankees 6, Athletics 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira homered and drove in three runs, CC Sabathia recovered from a shaky start and New York extended its winning streak to seven with the rain-delayed victory.

Jorge Posada knocked in two runs



Chicago White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle, left, is embraced by teammate Josh Fields after tossing a perfect game against the Tampa Bay Rays in a baseball game, Thursday, July 23, 2009, in Chicago.

and Phil Hughes tossed two perfect innings for his first major league save as New York increased its AL East lead to 2 1/2 games over idle Boston.

After sitting through a rain delay of 2 hours, 43 minutes, the Yankees overcame an early three-run deficit and handed rookie Vin Mazzaro (2-7) his seventh consecutive loss.

Eric Hinske's RBI single capped a four-run burst that put New York on top in the fourth.

Mariners 2, Tigers 1

At Detroit, Jarrod Washburn pitched seven scoreless innings for Seattle.

Washburn (8-6) allowed two hits and two walks as the Mariners won for the eighth time in 10 games. He is 5-1 with a 1.81 ERA in his last seven starts.

David Aardsma pitched a perfect ninth for his 24th save.

Rookie starter Luke French (1-1) al-

lowed two runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings and struck out six.

Indians 5, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Rookie David Huff won for the first time in three starts and Shin-Soo Choo (notes) tripled home two runs for Cleveland.

Huff (5-4) allowed four runs and eight hits in 7 2-3 innings. He walked one and struck out four. Huff left after Kevin Millar cut Cleveland's lead to one with a two-out homer. Joe Smith came on and got Vernon Wells to ground out and Kerry Wood pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

The Indians chased Toronto rookie left-hander Marc Rzepczynski with a three-run fifth featuring Choo's triple.

Toronto made it 4-3 on a two-run homer by Aaron Hill, who leads the team with 22.

Giants 5, Braves 1

At Atlanta, the San Francisco Giants avoided a four-game sweep by beating the Atlanta Braves.

Picher Barry Zito gave up only three hits in seven innings as the Giants moved within a game of Colorado in the provisional NL wildcard slot.

The Braves had been aiming for their first ever four-game home sweep of San Francisco.

Zito walked five batters but gave up just one run, Yunel Escobar's second-inning homer, and San Francisco scored four unearned runs in the eighth to break a 1-1 tie.

Phillies 9, Padres 4

At Philadelphia, the hosts returned to winning way with a comfortable victory over San Diego.

A day after their 10-game winning streak ended, the Phillies moved 6-1/2 games ahead of Atlanta and Florida atop the NL East.

Cole Hamels pitched seven effective innings, allowing four hits, to record only his second win in nine starts.

Jayson Werth and Pedro Feliz both had three hits for the Phillies, who scored three runs in the second, one in the third and four in the fourth and finished with 14 hits.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 4

At Phoenix, Arizona piled on five runs in the seventh inning to overcome Pittsburgh.

Mark Reynolds doubled with one out in the seventh and Miguel Montero followed with a double for a 5-4 lead.

After a single and a walk, Chad Tracy hit his sixth homer of the season to drive in three runs.

Cardinals 4, Nationals 1, 6 innings, rain

At Washington, St. Louis won its first game in four by downing Washington in a rain-shortened game.

Adam Wainwright pitched six strong innings, allowing just the one run. He walked one and struck out seven in what still counts as a complete game.

The game, a makeup of a May 3 contest postponed by rain, was called off with one out in the top of the seventh after a 90-minute delay left the field unplayable. There was also a 76-minute stoppage in the fourth inning.

The Cardinals' Rick Ankiel got his first homer in more than a month, going long to lead off the second.

Rain stops Canadian Open with Na in lead after 63

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Kevin Na skipped his senior year of high school to turn professional at 17. At 25, the Canadian Open leader can still be a little childish.

That was clear to anyone within earshot of Na and caddie Kenny Harms on Thursday at Glen Abbey as they argued about their options on the 11th hole—a tree and swollen 16-Mile Creek lurking ahead on the downhill par 4.

"It all started on my first hole when I started after the delay on 11, which was my second hole," said Na, winless in six seasons on the PGA Tour. "Pulled my tee shot into the trees and I didn't have a good lie in the rough. I had to go over the creek.

"And I told my caddie, I said, 'I think I can get over the tree.' He goes, 'There's no way you can get over the

tree.' We sat and argued there for a couple minutes. I said, 'I can do it.' He said, 'No, you can't.'

"He rarely says you can't do something, so he made me pitch out, and I ended up making a 15-footer for par that kind of kept the round going. And after that I started to back down and started catching fire."

Did he ever, birdieing the final five holes and nine of the last 12 for a 9-under 63 and a two-stroke lead over Retief Goosen, Scott Verplank and Joe Durant in the opening round that was delayed 7 1/2 hours because of rain.

"Once in a while we get it," said Na, coming off a seventh-place tie Sunday in Milwaukee—his seventh top-11 finish in 18 events this year.

After the long delay, 98 players were unable to finish the round, and 39 of them didn't even begin play. Jimmy Walker was 6 under with four holes left when play was suspended because of darkness.

The horn signaling the suspension sounded at 8:46 p.m., with players having the option to finish a hole they started. Na was fast to tee off on No. 9, making sure he didn't have to return

early Friday to play one hole. "That's all I was hoping for," said Na, the South Korean-born player who moved to the United States at age 8 and took up golf a year later. "I was just trying to get to the tee real quick and hit. Ended up being we had 10, 15 minutes to spare, but you never know when

they're going to call it."

Mike Weir, trying to become the first Canadian to win the national championship since Pat Fletcher in 1954, opened with a 70.

"It was not what we wanted for this event," Weir said. "It's kind of playing soft—a dart show. It's too bad because the course is really good. It's in really good condition, but super soft."

Na finished his first nine with birdies on the par-5 16th and 18th, also birdied Nos. 1 and 2 and closed with five in a row for a front-nine 28, matching the tournament record set by Vijay Singh on the same nine in the second round of his 2004 victory.

"The greens are holding, so you can get aggressive with the irons," Na said. "But off the tee you must put yourself in the fairway. The rough is very thick."

James reveals struggles with prep fame in new book



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James struggled with sudden fame after appearing on Sports Illustrated's cover as a 17-year-old and admits he smoked marijuana during his junior year in high school.

Those are two of the revelations in a book chronicling James' rise from Akron, Ohio, hoops prodigy to NBA superstar.

In "Shooting Stars," written by James and co-author Buzz Bissinger, James said the SI cover and the media attention he and his high school teammates received was difficult to handle.

"We had become big-headed jerks, me in particular," James said, "and we are to blame for that, but so are adults who treated us that way and then sat back and smugly watched the self-destruction."

In the book, scheduled for release in September, the NBA's reigning MVP recounts the media circus that enveloped his final two years at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School following his SI cover appearance. James said he and close friends Dru Joyce, Sian Cotton, Romeo Travis and Willie McGee—nicknamed the Fab Five—became "rock stars" and took advantage of their celebrity.

"I was arrogant, dubbing myself 'The Chosen One,'" James said. "In hindsight, I should have kept quiet, but I also was what I was, a teenager where every reporter in the world seemed to be rushing toward me at once."

James also revealed he and his teammates smoked marijuana one night after getting access to a hotel room in Akron.

James feels he was unfairly targeted by the media, which he described as "excited spectators at a car crash" after it was learned that his mother, Gloria, obtained a loan to buy him a \$50,000 Hummer for his birthday. He said the scrutiny was humiliating for his mother, who was living with him in a rental-assistance apartment.

"Was the vehicle excessive, with its bank of three televisions? Maybe. Probably. Of course it was," James said. "So were the BMWs parked in the St. V lot, belonging to fellow students. But nobody ever questioned those."

James also recounts being suspended by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for accepting two throwback jerseys as gifts from a Cleveland area clothing store. He describes the OHSAA as "ravenous" and is highly critical of former commissioner Clair Muscaro.

James said Muscaro, whose suspension of him was later reduced in court, wanted to put James and his school "in our place. ... 'this was a witch hunt, one-man posse's attempt to humiliate me, subject me to ridicule, rip open rumors that I was corrupt and ruin a dream.'"

James said the experiences drew he and his friends closer and proved to be valuable life lessons, many of which he attributes to "karma."

Armstrong to third after Tour time trial

By JAMEY KEATEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



ANNECY, France (AP)—Lance Armstrong finds himself in unfamiliar territory at this Tour de France—fighting just to remain among the top three riders.

Accustomed to dominating his way to victory, the seven-time Tour winner had to settle for a 16th-place finish in Thursday's time trial and a tenuous grip on third place.

The 37-year-old Texan battled fatigue in the 18th stage, a 25.2-mile race against the clock around bucolic Lake Annecy that Alberto Contador won in 48 minutes, 31 seconds to close in on the overall victory.

Armstrong was 1:30 behind, but he entered the day in fourth and easily overcame a 30-second deficit to Frank Schleck. The Saxo Bank rider finished 2:34 behind Contador to slip from third to sixth overall, but is only 34 seconds behind Armstrong.

After Thursday's stage, Armstrong said he had "mixed emotions. Sixteenth in a time trial is not a good result, but my ambition is to get on the podium, so I have to be happy with that."

During his reign as Tour champion, Armstrong never finished lower than third in a time trial, except once, when he placed seventh in one in 2003. This year, in the Stage 1 time trial in Monaco, he was 10th.

Armstrong is admittedly not at his best this year, and is already holding out hope for a better performance in 2010. He announced on Thursday that he is forming a new team that will be sponsored by Ft. Worth, Texas-based electronics vendor Radio Shack. His current team, Astana, has had financial woes, and he's had testy ties with its Kazakh owners.

The Texan's adequate ride Thursday kept his hopes alive for a podium spot, though he will have to hold off Schleck, a top climber who is sure to challenge the

American on Saturday during the uphill finish of the Tour's next to last stage.

Schleck and his younger brother Andy had bumped Armstrong from second place to fourth a day earlier in the last punishing Alpine stage, proving they'll be a force to reckon with in Stage 20.

"I suffered," Armstrong said of the time trial. "I probably started too hard and maybe I was just empty from yesterday and those cramps I suffered at the end of the (17th) stage."

Andy Schleck retained second place by finishing 21st—1:45 behind Contador and only 15 seconds slower than Armstrong, who trails by 1:14 in the race for second overall.

Contador, the 2007 Tour champion, is looking more like the Armstrong of yesteryear as he proved he can seemingly dominate at will in both time trials and in the mountains.

In a sport long marred by doping, some suggest Contador's performance looks too good to be true.

In an article in French daily *Le Monde* published Thursday, three-time Tour winner Greg Lemond questioned the speed that Contador mustered in his Stage 15 victory up to the Verbier ski station.

Asked twice to respond to those comments during a news conference after Thursday's stage, the 26-year-old Contador refused, saying only: "Next question."

Contador won the Tour in 2007 after Michael Rasmussen was kicked out on doping suspicions with just four days to go, when the Dane was in the yellow jersey. Contador wasn't allowed to defend his title in 2008 after Astana was banned for doping violations before he joined.

Pat McQuaid, the head of the International Cycling Union, said results are in on "dozens" of doping tests at the Tour this year, and none has come back positive. Contador, like many of the top riders in the race, has been tested numerous times, he said.

Contador beat Olympic time trial



AP
American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong crosses the finish line during the 18th stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time-trial of 40.5 kilometers (25.2 miles) with start and finish in Annecy, Alps region, France, Thursday July 23, 2009.

champion Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland by 3 seconds in the stage in and

around Annecy. Mikhail Ignatiev of Russia was third, 15 seconds back.

"I went all out," Contador said.

While the stage was mostly flat, riders had to contend with the midlevel Bluffy pass climb, which snaked upward for 2.3 miles.

The Spaniard's dominance was evident early. By the first intermediate time check, just past the 11-mile mark, he was already 18 seconds ahead of the closest challenger: Bradley Wiggins of Britain, the three-time Olympic pursuit champion.

At the top of Bluffy, Contador had extended his lead to 30 seconds over Wiggins before losing pace on the downhill and in the final flats to the finish.

Overall, Contador leads Andy Schleck by 4:11, Armstrong trails 5:25 back, while Wiggins is fourth, 5:36 behind. Germany's Andreas Kloeckner, who also rides for Astana, sits fifth, 5:38 back. Frank Schleck is sixth, 5:59 behind.

Armstrong was relatively strong at the start of the stage, only 29 seconds slower than Contador through the second intermediate time check at 15.5 miles. His main time deficit came on Bluffy ascent. By the top, he was 1:12 behind Contador.

"I felt good at the beginning, I felt smooth, but there was a tail wind, so maybe everyone felt good," Armstrong said. "I just wasn't that strong on the climb."

Riders get a relatively easy ride Friday with a 110.6-mile course from Bourgoin-Jallieu to Aubenas.

The biggest remaining challenge is an uphill finish at Mont Ventoux on Saturday—which Armstrong calls the toughest ascent in France—a day before the race ends on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

The threat for Armstrong is again likely to be the Schleck brothers, who have either matched or bettered the American on the climbs this year.

"I want to protect my position with Andy climbing so well," Armstrong said, "(I) just gotta watch for the moves and don't let him get away."

Roethlisberger says he'll fight rape allegations



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger vowed Thursday to fight a Lake Tahoe casino hostess' rape allegations against him, calling them "false and vicious."

Roethlisberger was served with a civil lawsuit last weekend when he returned to Lake Tahoe, where a 31-year-old Nevada woman alleges the quarterback raped her in a hotel penthouse in July 2008. Roethlisberger was in Nevada on both occasions to compete in a celebrity golf event.

The woman did not file a criminal complaint.

"Saturday was the first I heard of her accusations," Roethlisberger said. "Her false and vicious allegations are an attack on my family and on me. I would never, ever force myself on a woman."

In his first public comments on the matter, Roethlisberger read a statement at the Steelers practice complex

in Pittsburgh. Dressed in a brown pinstriped suit with no tie, Roethlisberger spoke for less than two minutes and did not respond to questions.

Roethlisberger was accompanied by Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin; his agent, Ryan Tollner; and his attorney, David Cornwell. They all left immediately after the statement was read.

Roethlisberger, who is not married, said he would fight what he called "outrageous allegations," but said he would not discuss his private life or the lawsuit in the media.

"The allegations against me are reckless and false," Roethlisberger said. "As much as I'd like to answer everyone's questions, I'm going to respect the legal process and I'm confident that the truth will prevail."

The woman alleges she was working as a VIP casino host at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, and claims the rape took place in Roethlisberger's room after he called her on a bogus complaint about the television.

According to the lawsuit, Harrah's

executives have been aware of the allegations for months. It says the woman's lawyer, Cal Dunlap, sent a letter to Harrah's executives on April 2 "informing them of the assault that had taken place on July 11, 2008." It also says Harrah's lawyers responded on April 13 to "dissuade plaintiff from pressing claims against Roethlisberger... and Harrah's."

Cornwell did not immediately return a telephone call or e-mail seeking comment.

Roethlisberger said he would remain focused on the upcoming season with the Pittsburgh Steelers, the defending Super Bowl champions.

The Steelers begin their training camp on July 31 at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, a town about 40 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Minutes after Roethlisberger finished his statement, NBA star Shaquille O'Neal walked into the media room in the Steelers' headquarters. Roethlisberger is participating in O'Neal's new reality TV series.

Roethlisberger canceled a news conference to promote the show, but ABC spokesman Edwin Escobar said in an e-mail Wednesday that filming is set for Friday. In the show "Shaq Vs." debuting Aug. 18, Roethlisberger is one of the athletes O'Neal will challenge in their respective sports.

Law enforcement officials in Nevada said Wednesday they do not plan to open a criminal investigation into the alleged incident. Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy Teresa Duffy said the accuser would have to file a criminal complaint to trigger an investigation.

"The victim is the only one who can do that," Duffy told The Associated Press. "Unless there was a third party that actually witnessed the incident which, according to the civil case, was not the case here."

The lawsuit seeks a minimum of \$440,000 in damages from the quarterback, at least \$50,000 in damages from the Harrah's officials and an unspecified amount of punitive damages.

The lawsuit says the woman didn't file a criminal complaint because she feared Harrah's would side with Roethlisberger and she would be fired. The suit doesn't say whether the woman is still working for Harrah's.

The suit also alleges hotel officials for Harrah's Lake Tahoe went to great lengths to cover up the incident.

The lawsuit says the woman required hospitalization for treatment for depression after the alleged attack.

Earlier this week, Cornwell issued a statement on Roethlisberger's behalf saying, "Ben has never sexually assaulted anyone. The timing of the lawsuit and the absence of a criminal complaint and a criminal investigation are the most compelling evidence of the absence of any criminal conduct."

Roethlisberger's touchdown pass to Antonio Holmes with 35 seconds to play lifted the Steelers to a 27-23 Super Bowl victory over the Arizona Cardinals in February. Roethlisberger is one of only two quarterbacks in NFL history, along with the Patriots' Tom Brady, to win two Super Bowls by the age of 26.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	58	37	.611	—
Boston	55	39	.585	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	52	44	.542	6 1/2
Toronto	47	49	.490	11 1/2
Baltimore	41	53	.436	16 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	49	44	.527	—
Chicago	50	45	.526	—
Minnesota	48	48	.500	2 1/2
Cleveland	38	58	.396	12 1/2
Kansas City	37	57	.394	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	56	38	.596	—
Texas	52	41	.559	3 1/2
Seattle	51	44	.537	5 1/2
Oakland	40	54	.426	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	54	39	.581	—
Atlanta	49	47	.510	6 1/2
Florida	49	47	.510	6 1/2
New York	44	50	.468	10 1/2
Washington	28	67	.295	27

Central Division

St. Louis	52	46	.531	—
Chicago	48	45	.516	1 1/2
Houston	49	46	.516	1 1/2
Milwaukee	48	47	.505	2 1/2
Cincinnati	44	50	.468	6
Pittsburgh	42	53	.442	8 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	61	34	.642	—
Colorado	52	43	.547	9
San Francisco	51	44	.537	10
Arizona	41	55	.427	20 1/2
San Diego	37	59	.385	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

San Francisco 5, Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 9, San Diego 4
St. Louis 4, Washington 1, 7 innings
Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 4
Cleveland 5, Toronto 4
Seattle 2, Detroit 1
Chicago White Sox 5, Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Yankees 6, Oakland 3
L.A. Angels 6, Minnesota 5, 10 innings

CANADIAN OPEN SCORES

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Canadian Open, a \$5.1 million US PGA Tour event at 7,253-yard, par-72 Glen Abbey Golf Club:

Partial First Round

Note: 98 golfers failed to complete first, they will complete the round Friday

FIRST ROUND

Kevin Na	28-35—63
Scott Verplank	29-36—65
Retief Goosen	33-32—65
Joe Durant	32-33—65
Dean Wilson	31-37—68
Harrison Frazar	33-35—68
Patrick Sheehan	34-34—68
Chris Riley	31-37—68
Kevin Sutherland	33-35—68

Steve Elkington	33-35—68
Frank Lickliter II	31-37—68
Jason Dufner	33-35—68
Billy Mayfair	34-35—69
Y.E. Yang	35-34—69
Brian Bateman	36-33—69
Ryan Palmer	33-36—69
John Merrick	35-35—70
Charlie Wi	36-34—70
Steve Allan	33-37—70
Bob Heintz	34-36—70
Craig Barlow	31-39—70
Mathias Gronberg	33-37—70
Jeff Klauk	32-39—71
Scott Piercy	35-36—71
Luke Donald	36-35—71
Chris DiMarco	33-38—71
Mike Weir	36-35—71
Mark Calcavecchia	36-35—71
Trevor Immelman	37-34—71
Bryce Molder	35-36—71
Brad Adamonis	33-38—71
Webb Simpson	36-35—71
Troy Kelly	35-36—71
Omar Uresti	34-38—72
Jonathan Byrd	35-37—72
J.P. Hayes	37-35—72
Michael Bradley	33-39—72
Joe Ogilvie	35-37—72
Jeff Maggert	35-37—72
Tyler Aldridge	35-37—72
Billy Andrade	35-38—73
Sean O'Hair	37-36—73
J.B. Holmes	36-37—73
Ryuji Imada	32-41—73
Chez Reavie	35-38—73
Jason Gore	34-39—73
Mathew Goggin	37-36—73
Peter Lonard	36-37—73
Vaughn Taylor	39-35—74
Ian Leggatt	36-38—74
Tom Pernice, Jr.	36-38—74
Eric Axley	35-39—74
Bubba Watson	35-40—75
Matthew Borchert	37-39—76
John Daly	35-42—77
Mark Brooks	40-38—78
Bob Tway	WD
Steve Flesch	WD

Leaderboard at time of suspended play

	SCORE	THRU
1. Kevin Na	-9	F
2. Scott Verplank	-7	F
2. Retief Goosen	-7	F
2. Joe Durant	-7	F
5. Jimmy Walker	-6	14
6. Dean Wilson	-4	F
6. Patrick Sheehan	-4	F
6. Jason Dufner	-4	F
6. Leif Olson	-4	16
6. Peter Tomasulo	-4	15
6. Derek Fathauer	-4	15
6. Harrison Frazar	-4	F
6. Kevin Sutherland	-4	F
6. Frank Lickliter II	-4	F
6. Steve Elkington	-4	F
6. Chris Riley	-4	F

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO MASTERS STANDINGS

Bayani	4	1
Boholanos	3	1
NMBA	3	2
Cabalen	2	2
MAFEA	2	4
MFICPA	0	3
MDX	2	4

NMBA

From Page 28

put the team in third place in the seven-squad field. NMBA was aiming to close out the regular season on a three-game winning streak last night when it played its rain-suspended game against Boholanos-Raffy's Diner.

MAFEA ended the regular season on a losing skid, faltering on its last two games. The Bank of Saipan-supported

MAFEA bowed to the depleted Boholanos last Wednesday, 90-108, dropping the team to a 2-4 slate.

The burly Francis Rebuyon top-scored for NMBA, making 20 points. His 12 markers in the second quarter allowed NMBA to break the tie in the first period and seize control of the game in the second canto.

After an 18-all deadlock in the first 10 minutes of play, NMBA outgunned MAFEA, 28-18, in the second period, to take a

ment on June 13 and 14.

X-Terminators nailed a 1-0 victory over Kulan Zamu Gear in the finals with lefty Manny Sablan making the game-winning hit at the bottom of the seventh inning.

Sablan hit his target with the ball dropping to the far end of the right field. Kulan Zamu Gear's Jun Kaipat babbled the ball, allowing leadoff batter Jerry Ayuyu to sprint from second

Banzai Memorial Half Marathon to benefit Whitmore

In an attempt to have Jamie Whitmore compete in the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championships, organizers will be donating proceeds of the 4th Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and 10K Fun Run for the inaugural XTERRA Saipan winner's return trip here.

Whitmore is recovering from cancer and missed the last two editions of XTERRA Saipan Championships.

Several months before the

Crown Jewel of the series of XTERRA races unfolds next year, organizers of the Banzai Half Marathon are hoping to raise enough money to defray the cost of Whitmore's return trip to the island. Local triathletes are hoping to bring Whitmore back on Saipan either as a guest or as a participant in XTERRA.

The Banzai race-fundraiser

for Whitmore will be held on Sept. 12.

Brad Ruszala, one of the organizers of the event, is expecting to have between 65 to 100 competing in the race starting and ending at the Banzai Cliff.

Registration is at 5:30am, while the half marathon will kick off at 6pm and the fun run at 7am. Entry fee is \$15.

This year's defending cham-



I can make this course, I can get more confidence for my bike and good training for the Hell of Marianas," Carey said.

"The first 30K was flat and then the hill climb started. The first long hill was 7K. I past many people there, but at the down hill many guys past on me. I tried to use different muscles, then stand and sit to endure the race. The hills lasted until the 120K mark and the last 25K was flat again and then from there, I knew I was still in third place," she added.

Bad move

Carey hung on to her spot until the last 1-kilometer of the race when eventual third placer Shima Yoshi overtook her. Yoshi crossed the finish line only less than a minute ahead of Carey with the former timing in at 9:46:47.

Keeping the pace

"The bike was hard but also so much fun. I can never ride the same course on Saipan. When I looked at this course while I was in the car, I was thinking if

a hard time adjusting. I kept sliding instead of moving my feet. I was irritated, as I couldn't hit my groundstrokes very well. However, my serves were going great again and I had up to three aces in just one game. In the first set, I had lots of errors and he was playing strong. I felt really nervous, too because I usually go to 3 sets against him," said Heo, who lost the first set, 6-7.

The Marianas High School student was right, as he went on to play Mara in three sets with the CNMI bet surviving the test and advancing to the finals.

HEO

From Page 28

shots if I had the chance. I was serving really great and I think I had 10 aces in the match. In the second set, I took an early lead and kept it. He played good in the second set, but in the end he kept making heaps of mistakes," Heo said.

The next match was a tougher one for Heo, as he faced one of the top junior players in New Caledonia in Aymeric Mara.

"Against Aymeric, I still had

"I started the second set really strong and got an early lead. I was dictating the points and I didn't give him any chance of getting to offense. I won the set, 6-0, but it wasn't too easy," Heo said.

In the deciding third set, Heo kept his momentum despite Mara's repeated comeback attempts to pull off an upset.

"In the third set, I felt really good and fit. The training in New Caledonia last month helped, as while he was tired, I still had the legs and the power. I kept my serves in and tried to be on offense as much as possible.

pions are Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

Kabiriel, who is also known as "Road Runner Bunny" topped last year's Banzai race in one hour, 31 minutes, 50 seconds, passing his 2007 record of 1:31:51.

Oshima-Berger claimed the first three editions of the Banzai half marathon and posted a record last year after capping the 19-mile race in 1:35:27. She crushed her own mark of 1:38:09 in 2006.

Tudela, and Pacific Development, Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura.

"Despite the heavy rain, a lot of volunteers were cheering and helping us with big smiles and warm hearts without complaining even though their T-shirts were super wet. There were almost 4,000 volunteers. My personal cheerleaders [Matsumura, Tudela, and Carey's parents] were great and gave me super energy. I thanked them, as they woke up early that day and followed me by car all day," she said.

Carey also thanked MVA, Taga, Inc. and all private companies who helped her compete in Kaike. She also acknowledged the support of her fellow triathletes from Saipan, as they flood her with email messages, wishing her good luck and congratulating her for completing the race.

I was up, 4-1, then he caught up with me and we kept holding serve and then its was 5-3. After playing several tournaments in the past two months, I learned how to keep my composure during these times. I wasn't too nervous and served my way to the match, 6-3," said Heo.

The CNMI netter was playing Guim Monot in the finals yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time.

He and a certain Boris are also in the finals of the doubles competition, which will be played today.

league with its 4-1 record, while Boholanos are in second with their 3-1 mark, pending the results of their last two games last night.

NMBA 84 — Rebuyon 20, Opone 16, Santos 8, Tobias 7, Casabuena 6, Abedes 5, David 4, Rio 2, Galzote 2.

MAFEA 71 — Illahi 17, Ocampo 12, Espinosa 12, Quemado 9, Villegas 7, Surima 6, Delfin 4, Buniag 2, Darag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-18, 46-36, 65-55, 84-71.

tion round is free.

The champion of the Saipan leg will represent the CNMI to the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament and will play the representatives of Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei. Saipan will host the four-island tournament from Nov. 12 to 15.

For more information about KOD, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185.

SECOND

From Page 28

The winner of the second qualifying event will join Advanced X-Terminators in the Saipan leg-Tournament of Champions in October this year.

Advanced X-Terminators claimed a ticket to the "Tournament of Champions" after ruling the first qualifying tourna-

in the first qualifying tournament for KOD with Banzai and the Jets joining finalists Kulan Zamu Gear and X-Terminators.

Excluding next month's qualifiers, two more tournaments will be held to determine the participants in the Saipan leg.

The third qualifier is set for Sept. 26 and 27, while the fourth/consolation round is scheduled for Oct. 3 and 4. Teams allowed to compete in

the Saipan leg must place first in one of the first three rounds. Squads hoping to play in the fourth/consolation round should join at least two of the first three rounds. Winner of the consolation round will then get the last slot to the KOD-Saipan Leg and collide with the three early qualifiers on Oct. 17 and 18.

The first three qualifiers will have an entrance fee of \$150 per team, while the fourth/consola-



White Sox's Buehrle pitches perfect game

Mark Buehrle pitched the 18th perfect game in major league history, getting a huge assist from Chicago center fielder DeWayne Wise and the White Sox beat Tampa Bays 5-0 on Thursday.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Armstrong to third after Tour time trial

Lance Armstrong finds himself in unfamiliar territory at this Tour de France—fighting just to remain among the top three riders.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Answered prayer for Mieko

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan-based triathlete Mieko Carey prayed for good weather all throughout the 29th Kaike Triathlon Championships, but her wishes fell on deaf ears.

She tried again, this time pleading to let her finish the rain-soaked race.

"Around the 17K of the run leg, I felt my knee and my IT band [tough group of fibers that run along the outside of the thigh] were hurting. Sometimes, I couldn't bend my knee. The pain reminded me of the Kansas race. I prayed a lot. Please not like that pain, please bring me to the finish," said Carey, who had blisters during the 2008 Kansas run.

Her prayers were answered, as Carey completed the grueling 3-kilometer swim, 145-km bike, and 42.195-km run triathlon in nine hours, 47 minutes, 43 seconds and was the fourth finisher among female participants in the annual event. She clocked in at 44:52 in the swim leg (19th overall), 4:49:08 (93rd) in the bike portion, and 4:03:43 (94th) in the run part to finish 62nd overall among the more than 300 finishers.

Actually, more than 800



Mieko Carey, right, poses with Pacific Development, Inc. president Yo-ichi Matsumura after completing the rain-soaked 29th Kaike Triathlon Championships in Japan last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

participated in the race, but 460 failed to finish, as organizers were forced to end the race at 6pm due to flood warning. Rain started to fall midway in the run portion and when Carey and the rest of the finishers crossed the finish line, they were rain-soaked and the water was ankle high.

"It was a heavy rain. I couldn't see people in front of me. We were lucky the rain didn't start on the bike portion. When the cars past us, the water would shower over our heads," Carey said.

The XTERRA World Championships veteran shared her exhausting, yet challenging experience in Kaike from the pushing around in the swim leg, the down-and-uphill bike portion, the must stop at traffic lights in the run leg, and the wet, but yet festive mood in the finish line.

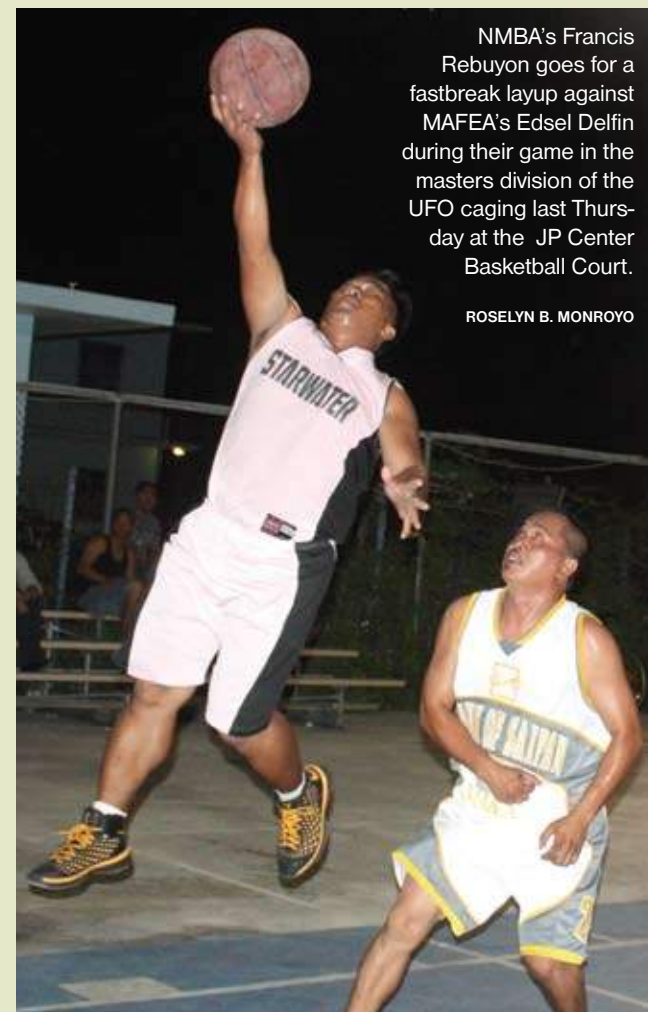
Jostling for position

"The water temperature was 25 degrees Celsius. It was not too cold, but still I have to wear wetsuit for safety. There were 821 participants who started at the same time for the 3-k swim. The first buoy was 350m point. Swimmers were really fighting for position. People swam over me and hit me. Can you imagine 821 people swam together?" Carey said.

"After the 350m first buoy, I found a good spot with only a

See ANSWERED on Page 27

NMBA gains back-to-back wins



NMBA's Francis Rebuyon goes for a fastbreak layup against MAFEA's Edsel Delfin during their game in the masters division of the UFO caging last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya cruised to its second win in a row after outclassing MAFEA-Bank of Saipan, 84-71, in the masters division game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Or-



ganizational Basketball League last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

The victory improved NMBA's record to 3-2 and

See NMBA on Page 27



Heo makes finals in New Caledonia tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo returned to New Caledonia last week and made his presence felt, anew in the French territory after advancing to the championship match in a tournament in Noumea.

Heo, who was in New Caledonia last month and made the

Round of 16 of both the singles and doubles competitions, won back-to-back games in his second tournament there.

He was first paired against Jeane Harrison last Wednesday and won in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3.

"I really had a hard time against Harrison. I had a hard



time because I played in hard courts for three weeks and this tournament is played on a synthetic grass. It's very slippery and the balls are very slow. It took a lot of time to adjust. He actually had 3 set points on the first set and was 6-5 up. I saved the first set with my serves," Heo said.

Before returning to Noumea, the 17-year-old CNMI netter was in Fiji and then in Australia for a couple of tournaments.

"Also, my shoes had absolutely no grip on the synthetic grass. My shoes usually last only two to three weeks during tournaments. Against Harrison, I played in and also went for my

See HEO on Page 27

Second leg of KOD set for Aug. 1 and 2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



After a month-long break, the qualifying tournament for the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the

Diamonds Softball Tournament will return to action next month at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The second qualifier is set for Aug. 1 and 2 with only the first 12 teams to register will be allowed to play in the two-day tournament.

See SECOND on Page 27

A Jets outfielder picks up the ball during their elimination round game against Kulan Zamu in the first qualifying tournament for the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament last month at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

